JULY
1948

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

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RIFLEMAN WORDS . . . .

Because long-range rifle shooting lapsed during the war years, many newcomers are unfamiliar with the slang of the .30-caliber rifle range. This month's "lexicon for shooters" is devoted entirely to terms appearing in Colonel Bill Tewes' "Hold a Wide Seven" (page 32).

CENTERS—Instead of the ten-ring of pistol and .22 caliber rifle targets, those used for military rifle shooting have a five-ring as the highest value. In the slang of the military rifleman, a five is a 'bullseye,' a 'center' is a four, a 'magpie' (so-called because the marker for that value is black and white), a three, a two an 'outer,' and a miss is a 'swab-ho.' There is no 'one ring' on the military target.

DRY SCOURING—Using a stiff metal-wire brush to remove nickel fouling from the bore of a rifle. When metal-jacketed bullets first replaced those of lead, metal fouling was a common and troublesome occurence. Unless removed, it would quickly build up in sufficient amount to spoil accuracy.

ENGLISH—Holding to right or left of the target instead of changing the sight. In a rapidly changing wind the expert rifleman can correct more rapidly by estimating the amount a momentary gust of wind will move his bullet and allowing for it than by stopping to change his sight setting by that amount. Also called 'Kentucky windage.'

FISHTAIL—A wind which veers from side-to-side from six o'clock, that is, from behind the shooter. This is the wind which gives the long-range rifleman his greatest trouble.

MARKER—A round paddle on a pole with which the value of a hit is signalled by the scorer in the target pit to the shooter on the firing line. A five is indicated by a white paddle, a four by red, three, black-and-white, two, black, and a miss by a red flag. See 'Centers.'

MINUTE—A rifleman's measure of angle used in making changes of sight readings. One minute on a rifle's rear sight equals one inch at 100 yards, two inches at 200, five inches at five hundred, etc. For fine adjustment, minutes of angle are divided into 'points.' One point equals one-fourth minute of angle.

MIRAGE—An effect caused by a layer of heated air which bends light rays in such a way as to make the target 'appear where it ain't.' The heat waves seen on paved roads in summer are an example of mirage.

PASTER—A small square of paper which is pasted over the bullet hole after its value has been signalled to the shooter.

SPOTTER—A disc which is placed over the bullet hole to show the shooter its exact position on the target. The disc is white if the shoot is 'in the black,' and black if the shot lands in the white area of the target.

WIND CLOCK—On rifle ranges, a clock-like device which indicates the direction of the wind. A wind clock reading of six o'clock indicates a wind from behind the shooter, three o'clock from his right, and twelve o'clock from the targets.

WIND GAUGE—That part of a rear sight which can be adjusted to move the hits to left or right.

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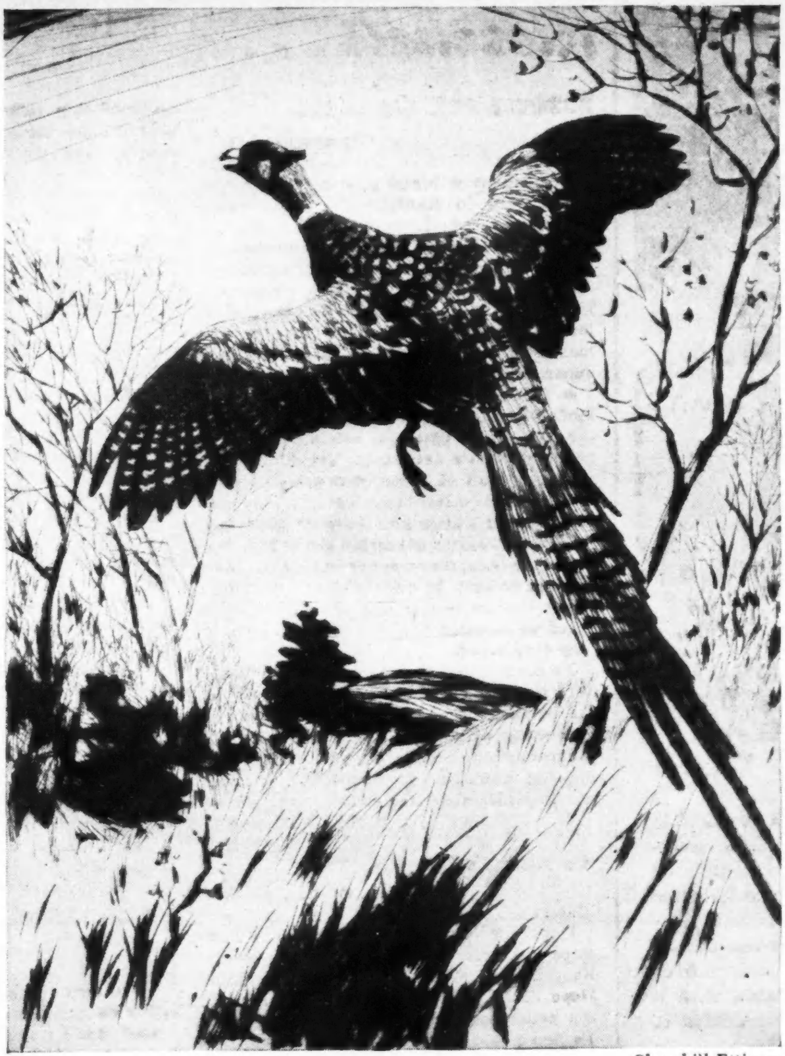

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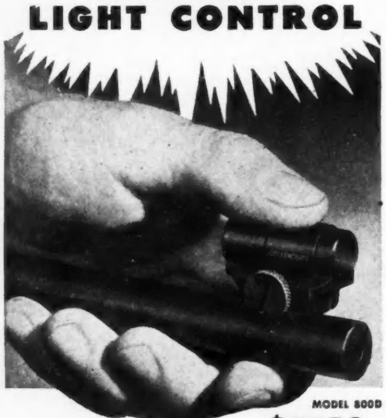

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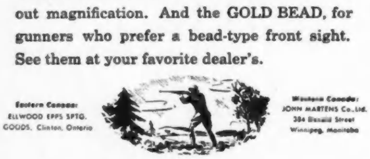

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Ricochets . . .

BOUQUET FOR BALTIMORE

Hyattsville, Md.

Editor:

Last season a brand new outdoor range was opened in Randallstown, Md., called the Patapsco range, under the direction of the Associated Gun Clubs of Baltimore.

I attended the first tournament conducted on this fine range. Not only is the range well laid out, and in a grand easy-to-find location, but there was at this first tournament something that to my mind was very outstanding.

It is natural to expect and look for all kinds of slip-ups, errors, and excitement on the part of the personnel conducting a first tournament on a new range. Yet at this particular one all of these were missing. One of the most noteworthy features was the fact that no matter how busy or tired any member conducting his or her duties that day may have been, they were at no time too busy or tired to stop, be very pleasant, and take ample time to answer any and all questions asked or to assist a shooter in any possible way they could.

To the men and women upon whose shoulders this responsibility rested—not only in the building of this fine range, but also in conducting of the day's matches—a public congratulation is due for the outsanding untiring, unselfish and very courteous manner in which they treated all comers.

CARL M. BLANCHARD

G's AND J's

Tonawanda, N. Y.

Editor:

I agree with you that Bill Weaver's new scope is a great buy, and I have one on my Enfield. But what's this J6 in your June Dope Bag (page 61) and the J4 as a short eye relief scope? Could be you got your J's and G's mixed.

ED ZETTEL

● *Mixed they were. The J series (J2.5, J4) are medium-priced scopes. The G's (G4 and G6) are lower priced, and intended for rimfires.—Ed.*

TECHNICALITIES

Spokane, Washington

Editor:

Admitting that your technical articles may not be understandable to some, they are to others and they have the right to read them. Besides, it won't hurt the disinterested individuals to read them, and what little they do absorb is all to their advantage. So here is one member's vote of confidence. I look forward to many more in the future. The current series on binoculars is unexcelled.

ALTON R. STIER

Chehalis, Wash.

Editor:

Continue the good technical articles but please don't digest and form opinions. We get too much of that in the news and radio.

E. B. RAY

CHRONOCHART

Berlin, Mass.

Editor:

Thanks ever so much for the swell article on insulating bullets and for the chronochart! They made a lot of us handloaders happy. The chronochart seems to check beautifully with the Du Pont-reported loads ('Better Loads for Better Shooting'), although it seems about five percent to 15 percent too low for Hercules' handloading booklets (second edition, revised)—after allowance is made for the different lengths of barrels used by Du Pont.

LEONARD BURNETT

Buffalo, Wyoming

Editor:

After rereading that May article on 'The Chronochart' . . . I decided that the editors owe their readers an apology for putting that essay in the form usually reserved for serious business. No need going into details—your mail bag will provide them.

Secondly, you owe Ole Bill Appleby an apology for your counter-offensive (Incidentally, April), because this month he would have been right on the beam with his applecider flavored comment.

So I request—demand, that is—that editor J. S. write Bill, ask for his comment in full on the chronochart, PAY HIM FOR IT, and give it top billing in an early issue.

Only thus can the editors expiate their most recent crimes against the RIFLEMAN and its ardent following.

L. B. MARTIN

● *Bull-eeve it or not, we don't know Appleby's address. Maybe he'll see this and oblige.—Ed.*

GUNSMITHS' GUILDS

Whitesboro, New York

Editor:

Have been reading with much interest the article on gunsmiths' guilds (June, page 28).

Last year I was asked to join two of them but did not do so. I feared that instead of assuring a shooter he would get only the best service, it could very well mislead him into sending his gun to someone who had misled the Guild into believing he was tops. They said they were going to be very careful who they allowed to join but I could not see how they would know who was who, unless they had an expert gunsmith visit each applicant and check for himself.

I think your article clears up a lot of points on the subject and feel if anything of this nature is ever undertaken the NRA is better able to do the job than anyone else. You stated the facts very clearly. I did not want to be spoil-sport and try and hinder anything that would be a benefit to the shooters, but after reading your article I feel justified in my stand.

LYSLE D. KILBOURN

SPELLING BEE

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Editor:

Although I am sure this has been previously called to your attention, General Hinds makes constant reference to Harrison & Richardson (May, page 19). Always was Harrington.

ARNOLD HAYNE

● *Still is.—Ed.*

FRANK PACHMAYR
POWer-PAC
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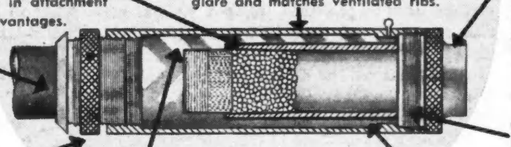
EASY INSTALLATION. Less lathe work . . . no facing-off body to make sight line up on top-center. Adapter ring designed to keep sight plane and shot plane parallel.



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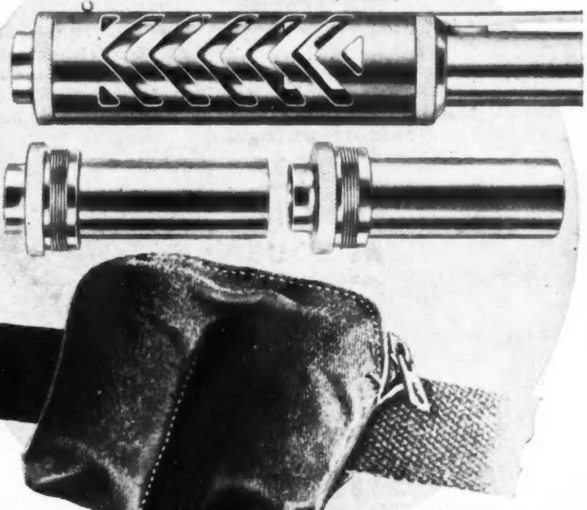

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Incidentally . . .

This is for small-bore shooters only. All others keep out!

The other day we had one of those round-robin editorial conferences of ours, with the usual quota of pipe smoke and heated discussion. Most of the time was spent poring over the big production board on which every article we have or expect to have is represented by a colored tag. If you've ever visited the RIFLEMAN editorial offices you'll probably remember 'the Board' . . . a big hunk of plywood lined off across the top with a year's issues of the RIFLEMAN and down the side all of the subjects readers want to know about. Right now the board looks pretty good. There's enough pistol material ahead for a half dozen issues, for instance, and shotgun . . . which used to be a headache . . . is represented by some good solid articles. It's like that all the way down the board . . . almost. The one fly in the ointment is a column two-down from the top, labelled 'Rifle.' It isn't blank by a long shot, but as far as the dyed-in-the-wool target shooter is concerned, it might just as well be. There's dope on hunting, on rifle makers, on indoor positions, on old timers, on rifle manufacture, on all sorts of rifle businesses . . . but not an article, present or planned, that will be of any real value to the hard-bitten outdoor smallboresman . . . or more to the point, to the youngster who wants to become a top-notcher in the game but can't find out how to start. We've tried again and again to get such articles, but no luck. The champs are too busy to write.

☆ ☆ ☆

There's a desperate need, *right now,* for good informative small-bore articles in the RIFLEMAN. If you don't believe that statement, take a look at the winners' bulletins of any recent small-bore tournament. The same old names are up on top . . . the ones who were winning the same matches back in '39 and '40. There's nothing wrong with that, if it were not for one factor. There were five wartime years during which shooting was curtailed. No chance then for a youngster to break into the game. Now there should be. Shooting is going full blast. There should be dozens of new names on those bulletins—and there will be, if the new men can get a helping hand. But that hand can come only from the old timers.

Bluntly, the big-time target shooters of today haven't offered their hand. They've allowed a feeling to grow amońg the younger shooters that's something like this: "They don't want us to learn, because they're afraid if we do, we'll start winning *their* matches, and walking off with *their* championships." That isn't true, obviously, but the feeling is understandable. And this much *is* true: The old timers have not, except in a few instances, done much to pass their knowledge along to the newcomers. As far as the printed word is concerned, the youngsters are left to their own devices, to learn as best they can. All too often, instead of learning, they get a bad case of discouragement, and quietly drop out of the shooting game altogether.

☆ ☆ ☆

This is all well and good, you say. But what to do about it? Well, to get back to 'the Board' . . . one good way of licking that situation would be a series of informative, down-to-earth articles on winddoping, sight management, mirage, triggers, equipment, small-bore technique in general . . . all slanted directly toward the beginning small-bore shooter . . . and written by men who win matches because of their knowledge of these things.

How about it, you champs and old timers? How about getting busy, and writing some articles of the kind you were wishing for when *you* were learning, but never had . . . the kind of articles that will get a new crop of shooters started out in the right direction? We need that new crop of shooters, and we won't get them by sitting on our knowledge just because it might be used against us.—J. S.

THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

COVER

The gun illustrated on his month's cover is perhaps the most richly decorated firearm in America. A prized possession of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, it is the work of Nicolas Noël Boutet, gunmaker to Napoleon Bonaparte. Its very richness is perhaps responsible for its existence in original condition. Rather than convert it to cap-and-ball, as was the fate of so many fine firearms, its owner spared it by having another gunmaker produce an almost equally rich set of barrels and locks for use with the then "new-fangled" percussion caps.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, WASHINGTON 6, D. C. DOMESTIC RATES (NORTH, SOUTH, AND CENTRAL AMERICA) $3.00 A YEAR, $5.00 FOR TWO YEARS; ELSEWHERE, $3.60 A YEAR, $6.50 FOR TWO YEARS. ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER, APRIL 1, 1908, AT THE POST OFFICE AT WASHINGTON, D. C., UNDER ACT OF MARCH 3, 1879. COPYRIGHT, 1948, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, GIVE BOTH NEW AND OLD ADDRESS AS THE LATTER APPEARS ON ADDRESS LABEL.

The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

1600 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

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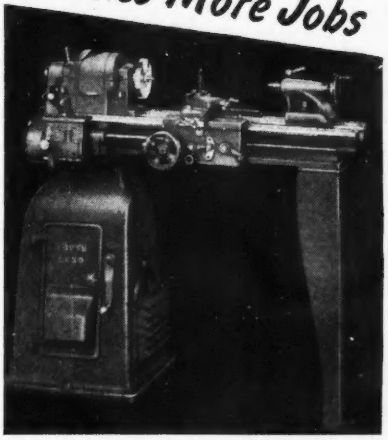

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NUMBER ONE PROBLEM

Do you want your guns taken away from you or their possession and use strictly regulated by the police?

No! Never!

Then, brothers, we need to exert ourselves more than we ever have in the past. Nor will it do any good to direct that exertion at a mere damning of the enforcement agencies and the legislators who propose gun-restrictive laws. We said editorially last month that the development of the police state idea in America was not chargeable to our law enforcement officers but to the "mental and political laziness of a large portion of the American electorate."

Theodore Roosevelt, fighter for individual freedom, soldier, gun-loving sportsman, who established the practice of sending a personal letter of commendation from The President of the United States to the winner of The President's Match, faced the problem in these words: "I not merely admit but insist that in all government, and especially in popular government, there must be control; and furthermore, that if that control does not come from within it must come from without. Therefore *it is essential that any people which engages in the difficult experiment of self-government should be able to practice self-control.*"

What does all this have to do with anti-gun legislation? Simply this. The greatest pressure for such legislation is coming today from people and groups who are not anti-gun reformers! Thousands of them are gun lovers and hunters. They are farmers and suburban home owners. They are power companies, state roads commissions, and forest wardens. Why? Because too many people are abroad with guns who throw lead without regard to where it eventually lands; who wantonly shoot out windows in automatic control stations; who lodge bullets in telephone and power cables, shorting-out circuits for ranchers or for entire rural communities; who shatter insulators; who damage important and costly warning signs; who fire tracer and incendiary bullets in fire-hazardous areas.

Of course the members of organized shooting clubs are not responsible for such wanton shooting. But what are they doing to stop it? Of course, there are already plenty of laws to punish vandalism. But law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once. And as Doc Anklam used to say, "Nobody ever made a law that'll prevent a man from making a fool of himself." Laws won't, but education and training will!

To kill the police state idea we must kill the idea that only the policeman is concerned with law enforcement. We must kill the idea that liberty means license. We must breed the idea that it is the personal duty of every good citizen to do all that he legally can do to see to it that everyone else behaves like a good citizen.

Every organization of shooters in America needs to make this problem its Number One item of business. It needs to make clear to the community its position on organized vs. unorganized shooting; to preach publicly and privately against careless shooting; to seek *aggressively* to bring to its ranges those who now wander with guns over the countryside.

Thomas Paine's writings spurred and guided our forefathers in their battle to establish the democracy whose birthday we celebrate on Independence Day. Said he: "Those who expect to reap the *blessings* of freedom must, like men, undergo the *fatigue* of supporting it."

It won't 'fatigue' you overmuch, brother, to teach a couple of young fellows something about the safe handling of firearms instead of having them shooting up the countryside!

C B Lister

"Groundhog FRESHMAN"

By HENRY E. BRADSHAW

A BEGINNER'S INTRODUCTION TO THE GRANDEST OF SUMMER SPORTS: WOODCHUCK HUNTING

Bert Popowski

CARL AND I LAY behind the budding hazel brush and peered at the hunchbacked animal laboriously making its way uphill on the green-sodded side of the abandoned railroad embankment. It was a husky creature, about a foot and a half long and six inches wide, that waddled when it walked. The grizzled gray of its coarse top hair, blending from rust to dark brown on the sides, loomed up like a blotch against the fresher colors of springtime.

Slowly I moved my head closer to Carl's and whispered, "When he gets just below his own burrow, he'll sit upright for a moment. Then take him." Carl nodded, breathlessly, and quietly nudged aside a stem of the bush with the barrel of his .22 rifle.

Sure enough, the animal did just what we wanted him to do. Nearing one of the mounds, he sniffed around the earth for a moment, and then sat up for a last look at the morning before turning in for a siesta that would last until late afternoon.

Carl, already leveled on the animal, had followed its trail with the rifle. I watched him set the stock more firmly against his cheek, the butt a little more snugly against his shoulder, and peer straight along the barrel, drawing a sight. Then he squeezed the trigger. The bullet thudded. The animal stiffened, rolled to his back, flounced once, and passed out. Carl had bagged a groundhog.

"You got him, Butch," I said, unnecessarily.

For the first time, Carl looked at me. He didn't say anything but his blank face suddenly shone brightly. He jumped up, scrambled over the intervening fence, and raced to the side of the animal.

"Right through the head!" he yelled back at me. He stopped and lifted the animal by a hind foot.

"Gosh!" he shouted again, "he's heavy!"

I knew the gripping, bubbling joy that coursed the boy's veins. Once I had felt it—the time I shot my first groundhog.

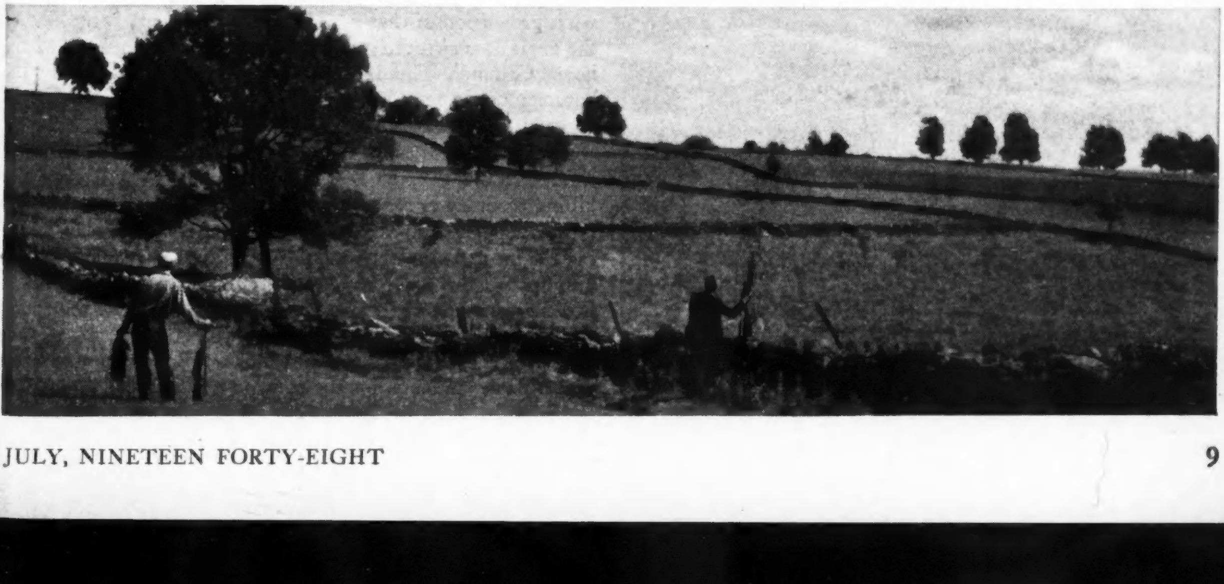
That's what makes groundhog hunting worthwhile. You can take a boy who is learning to hunt, let him develop his shooting eye on those tough underground characters, and have a lot of outdoor fun at the same time. Too, cleaned properly, they're good to eat.

It's best to first drill the boy at home. He should learn all the safety and gun handling rules 'in the dry,' without the excitement of the hunt preying on him. By the time he takes the field in an active hunt, he should be able to do what Carl had done when he sighted in on the groundhog—the correct things automatically. For every second that transpired during those tense moments, Carl had spent hours of practice.

Having ditched our animal, Carl and I wandered farther along the railroad track. It was a little after the best shooting time, early morning, but not too late for some action. Both sides of the grade housed the groundhogs which fed on the

George Bodo

This is New England chuck country. Here, in late summer, the wily woodchuck offers the rifleman his finest off-season sport



legume fields in the vicinity. It was good woodchuck country.

Carl and I were being as quiet as possible on the gravelly road bed, peering first over one side and then the other, trying to see that telltale upright body, ears pricked and eyes alert for danger. This is a difficult way to hunt these animals because it usually gives the groundhog, who can freeze like an icicle, the jump on the hunter. But I wanted to show Carl as many of the angles of groundhog hunting as I could in one lesson.

As we walked along, I explained that the groundhog, like a human, was a creature of habit. He has narrowed down his habitat to three areas and the hunter must, if he is to be successful, search out these localities. Probably the best place to look for a community of groundhogs is along creek banks where erosion is heavy and the soil easy to burrow, preferably near a culvert. His second choice is along grassy river banks, and his third is in alfalfa fields or other types of legumes. True it is that the groundhog is occasionally found other places. But find one of these three areas and you'll find a spot into which groundhogs are apt to move.

As we walked along, talking quietly, I heard a skirmishing in the brush along the fence. I grasped Carl's arm without speaking, and he stopped like he'd been hit. But we were too late. We spotted the chuck just as he dived down a burrow—he had seen us first.

The chuck seldom resists his own curiosity. Chances were that, sooner or later, he'd have to find out whether we were still there. So Carl and I found a comfortable, grassy spot in which to lie, trained the rifle on the burrow, and waited, quietly. Five minutes passed, then fifteen . . . our alertness increased. Usually from fifteen to twenty minutes is all the curiosity a groundhog can stand, then he'll suddenly pop out of his hole and survey the countryside.

At the stroke of twenty minutes, our quarry's sleek head emerged like it had been squirted from the hole and then locked in place. His neck never moved as he watched for the intruders.

It was a small target, but Carl eased the gun into position, peered over the sights, and, resting on his left elbow, squeezed off the trigger. Beyond the groundhog's head, and over it, the bullet plugged into the dirt. The chuck's head dropped back in the hole like a plumb-bob. Slowly Carl shook his head. "Don't think I hit it, did I?" he asked, beginning to shiver a trifle from delayed excitement.

It had been a tough shot and I didn't feel too badly about telling him he'd missed. After all, few experts could have hit that one, especially with open sights. With a scope, it would have been easy, and a scope-equipped gun is the best thing to use on these critters.

Scopes enable the user of the .22 to become more accurate at any distance. Ted Holm and Bill Randolph, two Iowa groundhog hunters, use scopes of from six to ten power. Holm's scope is on a Gebby Varminter and Randolph's on a custom-designed gun combining a Mauser action, a .220 Swift barrel, and a Bishop stock.

The outstanding thing about the scopes these men prefer, however, is the reticle. A man named T. K. Lee of Birmingham, Alabama, has designed a reticle using the finest type of spiderwebbing, centered with a dot covering one inch at 100 yards. Both Holm and Randolph swear by it, because it serves doubly as a range-finder. A groundhog's head, fur and all—front view, averages four inches across. By estimating in the glass the proportion of the head the dot covers, they know their distance from the chuck.

For the beginning boy who has nothing but an ordinary .22 rifle and a .22 long rifle cartridge, no shot should ever be attempted at more than 75 yards. The range should be less whenever possible. The groundhog is tough to kill, and shots with a .22 rimfire rifle, which lacks sufficient shocking power over 75 yards, are apt to be inaccurate enough to wound instead of kill at longer distances. Once a wounded groundhog gets down a hole, he'll not reappear. There he'll die.

Some want bigger guns than .22's for this long range shooting. Users of .30-'06, .30-40, and .270 guns aren't uncommon. An outdoorsman named Robert Flansburg of Weedsport, New York, once wrote that he used a Winchester .257, equipped with a Lyman, Jr., Targetspot 6X scope with a one-inch Tackhole Dot. He said he killed 'em consistently at between 200 and 300 yards with this outfit.

This brings up another exercise for the chuck-hunter-to-be. In order to judge accurately his distance with the Lee or any other dot that might serve the same purpose, he'd better do some measuring of the head of one of his first dead groundhogs. He should measure the width from the side, from the front, and the perspective at angles—until he knows what proportion of that head his dot is covering, regardless of the angle at which the groundhog sits when he pops out of the hole. Groundhog heads won't vary much in size, and after the boy measures a few, he'll strike his own averages, and they'll stick with him.

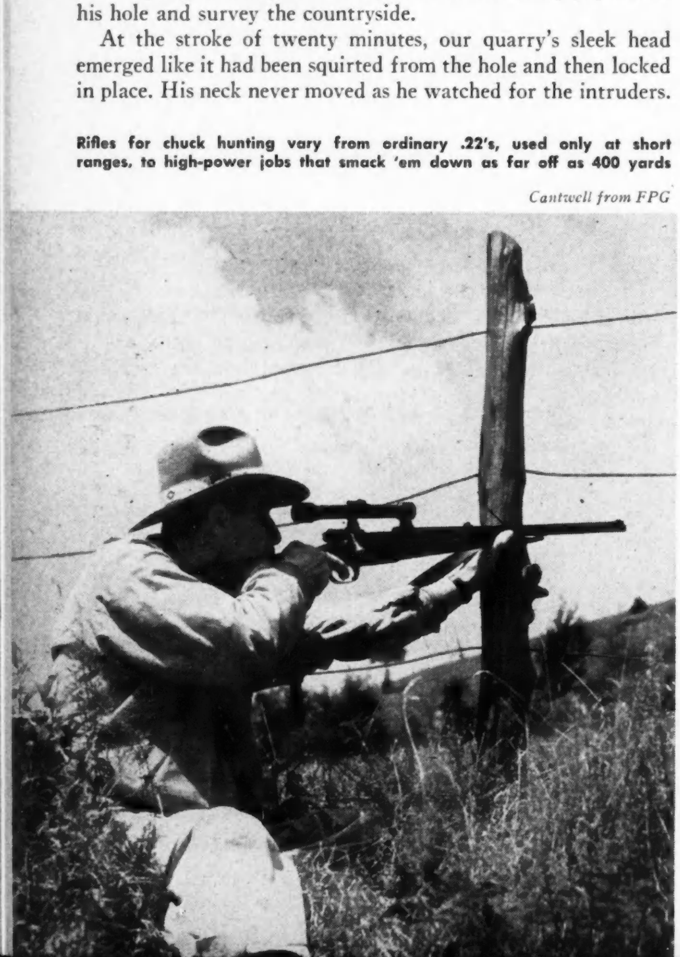
If the shooter is using a gun of the Hornet class, a 4X scope similar to the Weaver K-4 is a good one. It will give him killing accuracy at ranges up to 150 to 200 yards.

My young friend Carl still has a long way to go in learning the ins-and-outs of groundhog shooting. Right now, he is hunting for the thrill of the hunt. As his interest increases, however, he will dig deeper into the finer points of the sport, and when he finishes his lessons he will be surprised to find himself a rifleman who can turn into a big-game hunter overnight. The rules are, for the most part, identical.

He will, for instance, soon become interested in the wind-

Rifles for chuck hunting vary from ordinary .22's, used only at short ranges, to high-power jobs that smack 'em down as far off as 400 yards

Cantwell from FPG



"*Iowa Conservationist*"

Bert Popowski (2)

Spotting your chuck in late summer fields calls for experience and sharp eyes. Sometimes he'll be sunning himself on a flat rock, out in the open, but he's more apt to be skulking in the concealment of tall, uncut weeds or a tumbled fence row. He'll even take to the water on occasion. So be sure of your target BEFORE you shoot. That big chuck might turn out to be a farmer's dog, or even his youngster playing in the autumn fields

bucking ability of his bullets and their trajectory, in bullet velocity and all the other things which enable shooters like Randolph and Holm to fire five shots at 100 yards into a five-eighth-inch group. When a rifleman learns to shoot like that, and it usually takes a long, long time, there isn't much danger of his wounding a groundhog—he kills it! That's what a boy, if he's going to be a sportsman-hunter, must learn to do.

One of the first problems with which a boy collides when he sets out to be a groundhog hunter is the selection of a proper gun. I think it a good idea to start him immediately with the gun he will eventually use, but start him at close ranges. A gun with a flat trajectory, accuracy enough for shots from 150 to 400 yards, and one that fits his shoulder and arms, are important items to be considered. In order to insure that he won't be wounding groundhogs, it probably would be advisable to purchase a gun equivalent to the Hornet or better.

The range of factory-loaded cartridges covers the field well and ammunition can be purchased which will fit the gun he chooses. High-speed bullets aren't to be feared. Rather, they are to be selected if the boy has received sufficient training at a rifle club or at home beforehand. He must have learned that a dirt bank background or some other non-ricocheting obstruction should be behind the game before he shoots, especially in communities where livestock exists. An obstruction is less essential, however, with a high-speed bullet than one of low velocity. When a high-speed bullet hits an obstruction like a dirt bank, or tree limbs, or heavy bush, it explodes into powder, injuring nothing. When it hits the groundhog, it kills him instantly.

A factory load for a .220 Swift propels a 48-grain bullet at velocities of from 4100 to 4200 feet per second. That's good enough. Other factory cartridges for other guns are equally satisfactory. But many ardent groundhoggers become so imbued with their task, they join the ranks of the handloaders.

Randolph, for instance, necks down a .25 caliber cartridge to a .22, uses a 41-grain soft-point bullet, and gets a velocity of 4300 feet per second. That slug is too light for Holm, who desires more wind-bucking ability from his bullets. Flansburg, on the other hand, with his .257, uses a Barnes 100-grain sharp-point bullet ahead of 40 grains of 3031 powder, getting 3000 feet per second. It should be noted, however, that Flansburg's hunting territory is exceptionally hilly, and that he always shoots from a hilltop into a valley.

Another safety rule all expert groundhoggers follow is never to carry a loaded gun, nor one with the breech closed. Holm, Randolph, and all the rest do not load until they see 'the pig.' If they fail to get a shot, they unload before moving on.

Yes, there are hundreds of things Carl has yet to learn about shooting groundhogs, not only about the equipment but about the habits of the creatures. He has to learn that their bright eyes can see like a crow, farther than you can see them; that at 200 yards you loom to them like a duck on a pond. He has to learn that the chuck's hearing isn't acute, and that he can crawl quite close to one if he keeps out of the chuck's sight. He might decide that the way he likes to hunt them best is to choose a sheltered point overlooking several dens, and then wait until a chuck sticks his head from one of them. From then on, it is essential that Carl remain motionless, or the chuck will never leave that den.

He has to find that binoculars are helpful gadgets to have along; then the groundhogs out sunning in front of their caverns can be spotted without disturbing them, and a sneak can be made from the proper angle to get a good shot.

But he can't learn it all at once, and he has a lot of time in which to absorb it. He will have a lot of fun before he graduates from Groundhog University. ◆ ◆ ◆

Charles Antosik, 22-year-old Navy veteran, represents the younger generation at Colt's. Bins are filled with receiver forgings

THE MEN OF HARTFORD

THE STORY OF COLT PISTOLS . . . ANOTHER PICTURE FEATURE IN THE RIFLEMAN'S SERIES OF "PERSONALLY CONDUCTED" TOURS OF AMERICA'S GREAT ARMS AND AMMUNITION PLANTS

Photographs for The American Rifleman by Richard L. Reish

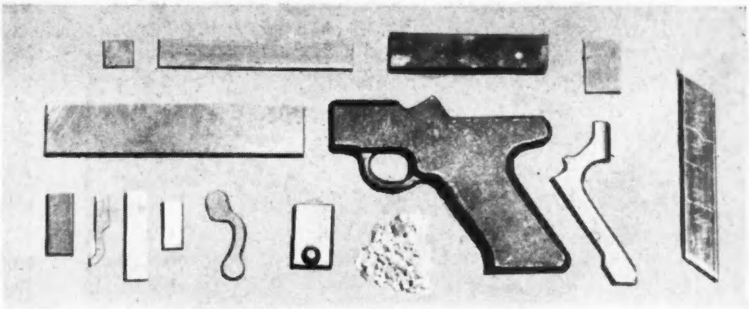
Arms polisher Thomas Shicko started working in the Colt plant just after World War I. A skilled barrel specialist, his present average output is seventy barrels per day. Most of them are for the .45 semiautomatic. The rack which forms the background holds about a thousand polishing wheels

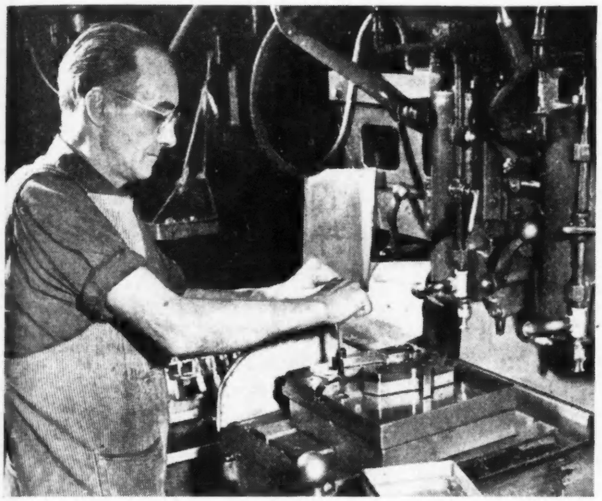
IT TAKES MORE THAN machines and materials to build a fine firearm. A more important ingredient than either is the know-how of American arms designers, and the skill and pride of the men who put that know-how to work. In every US arms plant there is a nucleus of skilled old timers. These are the craftsmen without whose painstaking efforts the machines would be useless, and the materials wasted.

To illustrate that point, THE RIFLEMAN has visited another typical American arms plant—the great old factory of Sam Colt. Established a century ago at Hartford, Connecticut, the Colt plant today employs more than 1,000 men in its small-arms division. Those men offer a fine object lesson in the continuing traditions of firearms manufacture. In a land where labor turnover becomes greater each year, where improved machines and improved processes are gradually killing off the fine old ideals of craftsmanship, Colt (like many another arms maker) still depends on the care and skill of its oldest employees in carrying on its reputation for quality. Sam Colt made his first pistol by hand. The legacy of that method is apparent today in the plant he founded at Hartford.

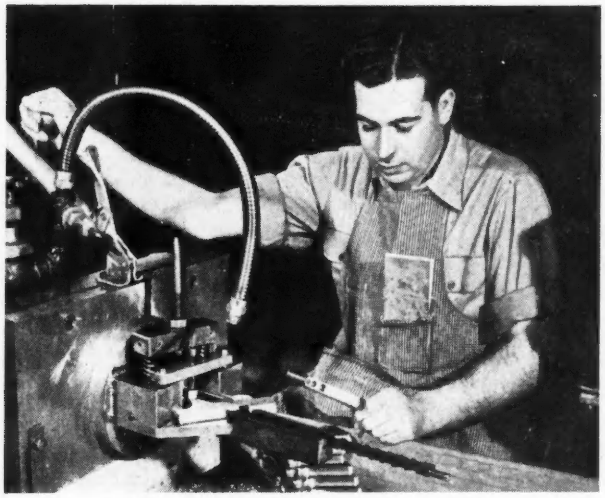
A few of the men shown on this and the following pages have been with Colt for almost a half century. All of them are specialists, with a deep pride in the kind of work they turn out. Without such men, the firearms Americans prize so dearly would never have won their great reputation.

It takes the combined efforts of an amazing number of men to transform the handful of parts shown on the right into a Colt pistol. Many of the materials are purchased by Colt as rough forgings, from which the men of Hartford shape the many elements of a modern firearm. Strangely enough, the basic methods have changed little since the days of cap-and-ball. Though modern machines do much of the work, skilled craftsmen still must "file and fit" to the tolerances demanded for fine accuracy.

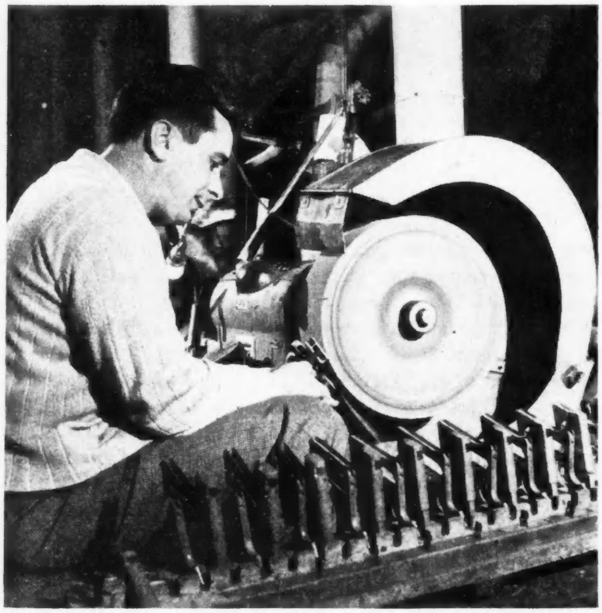




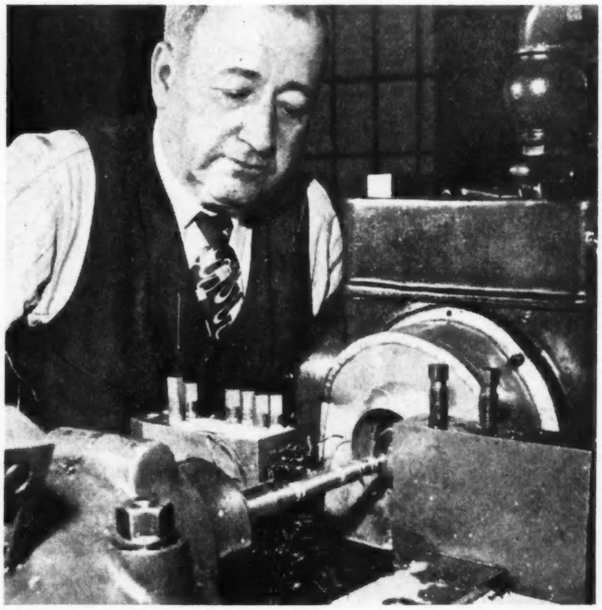
Paul Strubell, who came to the Colt plant in 1911, locks a partially-finished receiver in one of the plant's profiling machines for first major step in its trip through the factory. The object on the right of the forging is a pattern which guides the cutting tool as it shapes the outside of Woodsman receiver



This is one of the many specialized machines used by Colt. Its operator, Paul La Plante, is broaching magazine opening in a Woodsman receiver. La Plante averages 22 receivers an hour on the big machine. Curved hose in front of him directs oil on the work to clear away metal chips



Robert May, who has been with Colt only a few years, spent eighteen months of that time learning his apparently simple craft of polishing. Actually, it is a difficult and highly specialized skill. As in most operations, old-fashioned overhead belts have given way to modern equipment like this



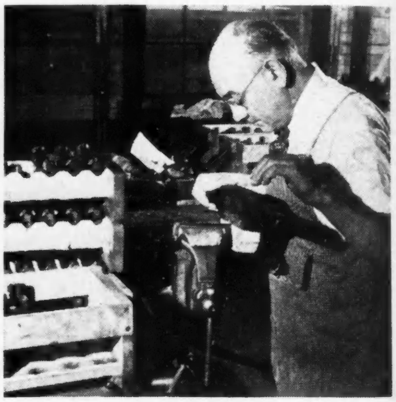
Jake Klinger was born in Hungary, started with Colt in 1911. His specialty has always been barrel drilling, especially for the .45 semiautomatic pistol. Here he is shown turning a barrel to correct outside dimensions on a lathe. Klinger is now a foreman and superintends barrel production

Keeping precision tools in order is one of the biggest headaches of any factory. The reamers this man is working on must be sharpened within a tolerance of .0007 inch. It is fussy, specialized work, and must be done patiently and by hand

Veteran filer Barney Goldman, who retired after exactly forty-nine years in the Colt plant, was born in Lithuania, worked first on Pope bicycles. Pope was uncle of famed barrelmaker

Ed Perkins is a general "set-up" man. Here he inspects cylinders after each chamber has been burnished. Cylinders are for police 38's

Andrew Lee started in 1940 as filer on machine guns. Now an assemblyman, he fits 140 ratchets and ejectors to revolver cylinders per day



Ernie Bernard started checkering revolver stocks in 1914, has since become an assembler. Here he is aligning Woodsman barrels and receivers

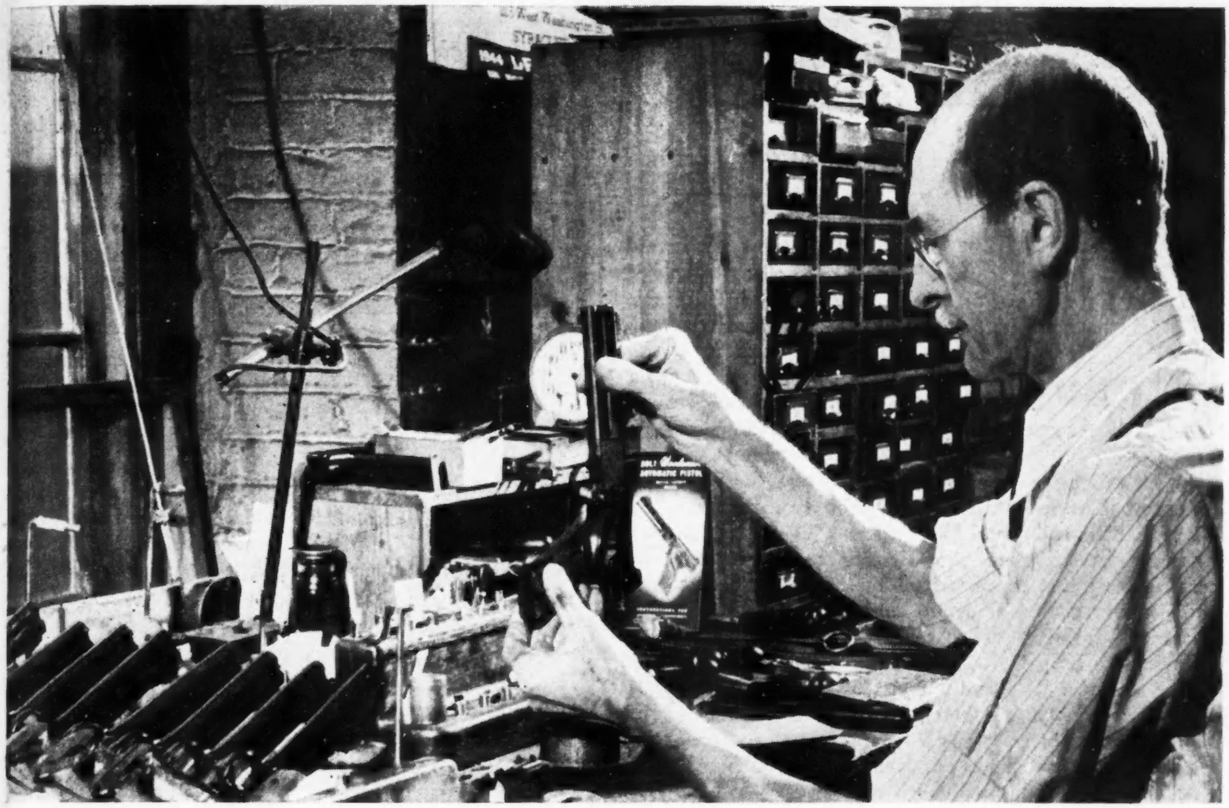
There are dozens of highly-specialized jobs involved in making a pistol which the purchaser seldom thinks about. John Keating's is one of them. He is shown stamping the Colt proofmark (the letters VP) on .45 pistols

CRAFTSMANSHIP IS STILL ALIVE

Skilled hand filer Barney Goldman (top right) worked exactly 49 years in the Hartford plant. Not long ago, Goldman walked away from his bench, told his boss, "I've been here long enough. I'm tired." Barney is on the retired list now, but some of the Goldman skill is still active in the Colt plant. Barney's son, Charles, has a hand in the production of the same weapons that occupied his father for so many years.

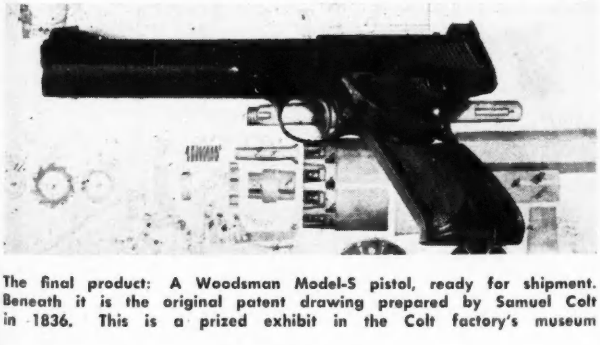
Axel Hallstrom (page 15) is another of the men who have made American arms what they are. Born in Sweden, Hallstrom started his American career with Iver Johnson, then moved to Harrington and Richardson. In 1906 he came to the Colt plant as an inspector. Ever since, Hallstrom has been one of the watchdogs of American arms production. A master of his trade, he was "loaned" to Springfield Armory during the first World War, where he served through 1916-1918 as Chief of Inspection. Now one of the "grand old men" of the Colt factory, Hallstrom knows as much about the fine points of handgun manufacture as anyone in the business.

Men like Hallstrom and Barney Goldman can never be replaced by machines. Their skill, developed by years of work at the benches of America's arms plants, will remain an essential ingredient as long as American shooters demand fine quality in the weapons that fill their gun cases. ◆ ◆ ◆



Final inspection of handguns is entrusted to oldest, best qualified men. Here Axel Hallstrom, who has been at Colt plant since 1906, checks trigger weight

Minor adjustments are made after pistol is completely assembled. Ernie Bernard (center) tries out sights while two other assemblymen check to be sure pistols function properly before packaging



The final product: A Woodsman Model-S pistol, ready for shipment. Beneath it is the original patent drawing prepared by Samuel Colt in 1836. This is a prized exhibit in the Colt factory's museum

Pistols are tested by resting on frame, sighting by eye. Here Ed Keily fires a Woodsman on the factory range. Thirty years of testing have left their mark on the veteran. He is partially deaf

OLYMPIC

News

XIV

LONDON

1948

THE Olympic Preliminary Tryout Matches are so nearly completed that the schedule for such coming events has been eliminated from this issue. Consult previous issues for the locations of the preliminary matches planned for the July 4 week-end—the final date Preliminary Tryouts may be conducted.

When this issue went to press a few small-bore rifle and pistol tryout scores had been received for the inspection of the Olympic Rifle and Pistol Committees. These seem to indicate that places on these two Olympic squads will be closely contested and that practically all the nationally known rifle- and pistolmen are trying out for an invitation to the Finals at Quantico, Virginia.

Invitations are going out to shooters who have been selected by the Olympic Rifle and Pistol Committees to fire in the Quantico Finals. Only those who are so invited to Quantico may fire in the Final Olympic Tryouts, July 10 and 11. These tryouts will not be open to any other shooters. Those persons who are interested in observing the finals may do so, but no quarters or meals on the Marine Base will be available for spectators.

The individuals who are invited to Quantico for participation in the Final Tryouts will make the trip at their own expense, with the understanding, however, that those who are successful in making the Olympic squad will have their expenses paid from Quantico to London and from London back to their homes. Some weeks ago it was anticipated that help could be given to the shooters of the far west by transporting them to Quantico in Air Force or National Guard planes. We regret to announce that this plan was disapproved by the Air Corps. Therefore, all who accept invitations to come to Quantico for the Final Olympic Tryouts do so in knowledge that they must pay their own expenses.

The Marine Corps, as usual, is cooperating to the fullest. Their splendid range facilities, together with quarters and messing facilities, have been made available to the Olympic Committees and officers and men of the Marine Corps will conduct the firing of the Tryouts.

The Rifle and Pistol Committees have already determined and previously announced that the members of the Olympic squad will be selected solely upon the scores made at the Quantico Finals. The Final Tryouts will include four times over the regular Olympic Courses for small-bore rifle, free pistol, slow-fire and rapid-fire pistol, and twice over the Olympic course for the free rifle. In other words, competitors in the free rifle will shoot the complete Olympic Course on Saturday, July 10, and again on Sunday, July 11, while the competitors in small-bore rifle, free pistol, and rapid-fire pistol will shoot twice over the course on each of the two above-mentioned dates. (See page 51 for Olympic Match Dates.)

KARL T. FREDERICK,
Chairman,
Olympic Pistol Committee,
61 Broadway,
New York, New York

MILTON A. RECKORD,
Chairman,
Olympic Rifle Committee,
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W.,
Washington 6, D. C.

Contributions to the Olympic Rifle and Pistol Teams

XIV

LONDON

1948

This is the year of the XIVth Olympiad. Sports-minded individuals are looking forward, hoping for the success of the four hundred young men and women who will represent the United States in the Olympic Games to be held in London early in August.

It is expected the Rifle and Pistol Teams will total fourteen persons, headed by Mr. Karl T. Frederick, of New York, as Squad Captain, and Doctor Emmet O. Swanson, of Minneapolis, as Adjutant.

Funds must be raised by voluntary contributions to cover all Olympic expenses. *Such contributions are deductible from Federal Income Tax declarations.*

Your contribution should be forwarded to the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Just fill out the form below.

National Rifle Association
1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

I am glad to assist in financing the Olympic Rifle and Pistol Teams. My contribution for $____________ is attached.

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MIKE FINK and his celebrated BANG-ALL

By EDWIN SIMMONS

Illustrated from originals in the Rare Book Room of the Library of Congress

Most shooters have heard—or should have heard—of Mike Fink, king of the Mississippi and possibly the greatest flintlock expert of all time. Certainly he was the greatest in his brags and he had a remarkable way of making his brags stand. Even the mighty Davy Crockett deferred to him. But time has considerably dimmed his legend.

Even the date of his birth is uncertain; it is usually put somewhere between 1770 and 1780. Anyway, it was in one of the twenty or so scroungy cabins clustered around the fort and trading post people were beginning to call Pittsburgh. This was the fringe, borderland; beyond the Monongahela and Ohio rivers was Indian country. Mike was to live on the frontier of things all his life. His span is a story of buckskins, flintlocks, river boats, and raw whiskey.

Mike was twelve when he got his first rifle. By that age some of his friends had already killed their Indians. Mike was considered right slow. However by the next year he had become a tolerable shot. He was assigned a loophole at the fort and allowed to accompany some of the larger expeditions against the redskins.

He also began entering the beef shoots which were the popular sport of the frontier. A charred board propped against a tree was commonly the target. A paper in which a diamond-shaped hole was cut was pegged to the front of it. Two scratched lines marked the center of the bull. The six prizes were the four quarters of beef, the hide and tallow, and the lead that remained in the tree. By the time Mike was seventeen he could plunk six shots running into the black diamond. To keep him from winning the whole cow it became customary to give him the tallow and the hide and bar him from the shooting. This automatic prize, he learned, could be traded for an interesting amount of whiskey.

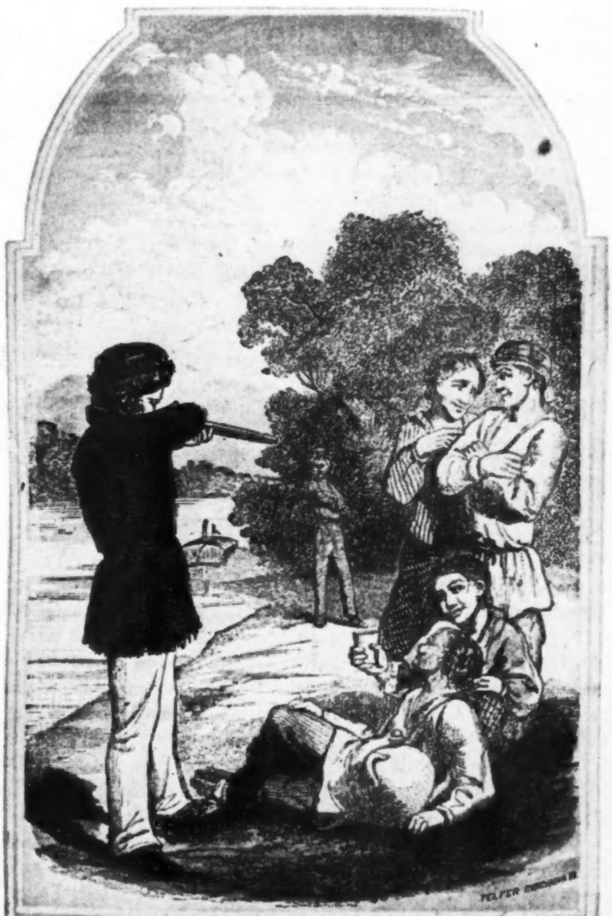
Mike was man-sized now and able to join the Rangers, the irregular constabulary which kept the Indians down. He is described as being a little above average height and weight, perhaps five feet nine and 180 pounds, broad shouldered, black haired, and muscular. His grey-blue eyes were set in a round, sun-browned face and it was often remarked that he was equally deadly with gun, knife, tomahawk, or bare hands.

The Rangers spent a good deal of time in Indian country, singly or in small groups. An increasing number of coarse black scalplocks decorated Mike Fink's hunting shirt.

When he had gotten enough money together, by one means or another, he travelled east of the Alleghenies to Lancaster where he could get a rifle built to measure. He sat on a stump and watched the gunsmith forge the long octagonal barrel. The caliber was .45—a little lighter than the frontier average. When finished the barrel was properly browned by being rusted with salt water, buffed with a stiff brush, and washed down with a hot, weak solution of blue vitriol and water.

The stock was made from a piece of quarter-sawed curly maple which Mike picked out himself. If the frontier formula was followed, it was charred slightly and rubbed down with loose, fine sand to make the curls stand out in relief. Then it was soaked in linseed oil which was stained with bloodroot and darkened with soot. After the oil had partially dried, the stock was rubbed with buckskin to brighten the grain, and then finished with bleached shellac.

Forty-seven inlays of brass and silver are recorded. The cheek plate was decorated with a six-pointed star. Across the rest of the stock Mike's lucky signs, Indians, diamonds, crescents, dogs, hearts, and American eagles, ran rampant.



HALF FACT, HALF FICTION, THE LEGEND OF MIKE FINK IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE AMERICAN HERITAGE . . .

The finished rifle was 58 inches long. The stock had a drop tailored to Mike's chunky shoulders. He christened it 'Bang-All.' It was, he said, "slicker'n a wildcat and quicker in action." It handled like a "willow sapling in spring."

Life as a ranger grew tiresome. Mike looked at the broad Ohio. Two thousand miles of water from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. They said that in New Orleans the people spoke French and wore Sunday clothes every day in the week . . .

At Pittsburgh, Mike won his place on a keelboat by licking the biggest poleman in the crew. He traded his buckskins for the red shirt, blue jacket, and leather cap of a riverman, but he took old Bang-All along.

Time passed and Mike flourished. He wore a red feather in his cap to show that he was champion of his boat. He learned the river, became head polesman, then steersman, finally *patron* of his own keelboat. On the Ohio he was called the 'Snapping Turtle.' On the Mississippi he was the 'Snag.'

He became famous for his brags, brawling, love-making, singing, and practical joking, but his greatest feats were performed with old Bang-All.

There remains no way to test the authenticity of these stories. They vary from the evident truth to the absolute fantastic.

Davy Crockett in his apocryphal 'Almanacs' credits Mike with fabulous powers. One of his best stories describes a shooting match between himself and the king of the keelers.

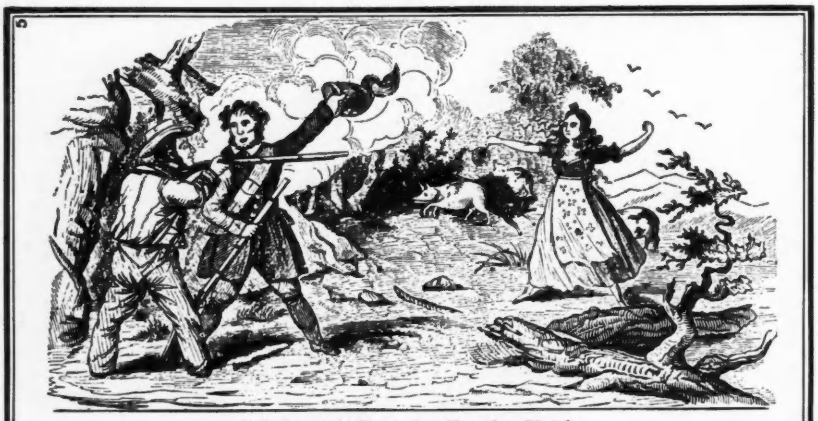
Mike had made his brag that he had the handsomest wife, the fastest horse, and the sharpest shooting iron in all Kentucky. Davy replied that Mrs. Crockett was in Tennessee and he didn't have any horses, but he'd be damned if he could allow that Mike was the best shot.

To demonstrate his point he took a shot at a tomcat 150 yards away, clipping both ears so neatly that the cat didn't know they were gone until he tried to scratch them.

There was a sow and her litter of eight pigs resting a good way off and Mike, loading and firing as fast as the eye could follow, cut off all eight curled tails. That, Davy admitted, was tolerable shooting, but Mike had left one pig an inch of tail to steer by. Davy trimmed it off with a languid shot. Mike got mad and shot half the comb out his wife's hair as she passed on her way to the spring to get a gourd of water. He called for her to stop so that Davy could take a shot at what was left of the comb. Mike's wife turned toward the pioneer. At that Crockett gave in because he had to confess that he couldn't face a woman without trembling.

Davy's story is, of course, pure nonsense—a tall tale in the best tradition of the frontier. Other feats attributed to Mike might be classified as the elaborated truth although there is no telling now where the fact leaves off and the fiction begins. One story in this category stems from his ranger days in Pennsylvania.

Mike was returning from a solo scout. His rations were about gone; nothing left except a little parched corn and jerked meat. His appetite was craving a change of diet when his path crossed bear sign. He followed the trail, reading in the pressed earth and splattered blood that the bear had been killed by an Indian hunting party. Mike paralleled the track of the hunting party, deciding it was too large for him to tackle alone. But the gnawing desire for fresh meat lingered. When a fine buck deer came in sight, two-three hundred yards off, he was tempted to risk a shot. While he thought about it, an Indian hunter, also intent on the deer, came into view. Mike took cover, waited, leveling his rifle at the Indian. At the instant the Indian banged away at the deer, Mike fired. The first shot covered the sound of the second. The deer fell dead and so did the Indian. Mike's moccasins were soon paddling softly on their way to Pittsburgh, fresh deer meat and a fresh Indian scalp both dangling from his belt. Mike was that kind of hunter.



Col. Crockett Beat at a Shooting Match

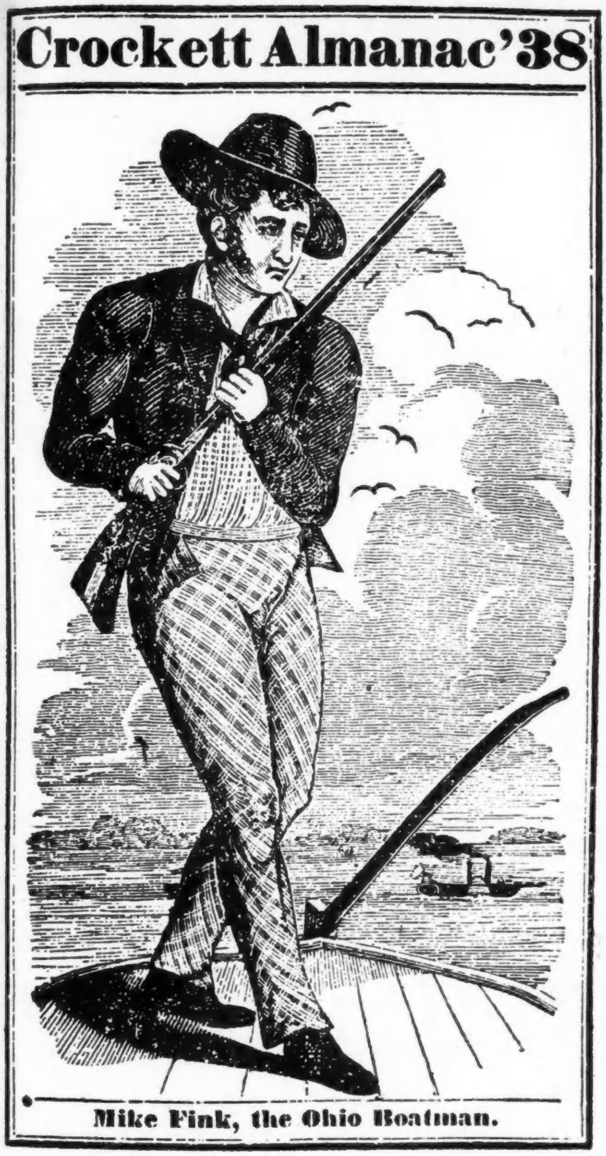
How much of that story is true? Well, who is to say? However, Mike's fame does not rest on half-true anecdotes alone. Many of his feats were attested by responsible witnesses. (Occasionally Mike found himself in various courts of law for such matters as pig stealing and scandalous conduct, so some of the witnesses were under oath.)

Marksmanship standards on the frontier were, of course, high. Firing at a nailhead at 40 paces, snuffing candles at 50 yards, were common marks. Squirrels were neatly barked and wild birds shot on the wing. Mike Fink's own prowess was peculiarly linked with the 'shooting of the cup.'.

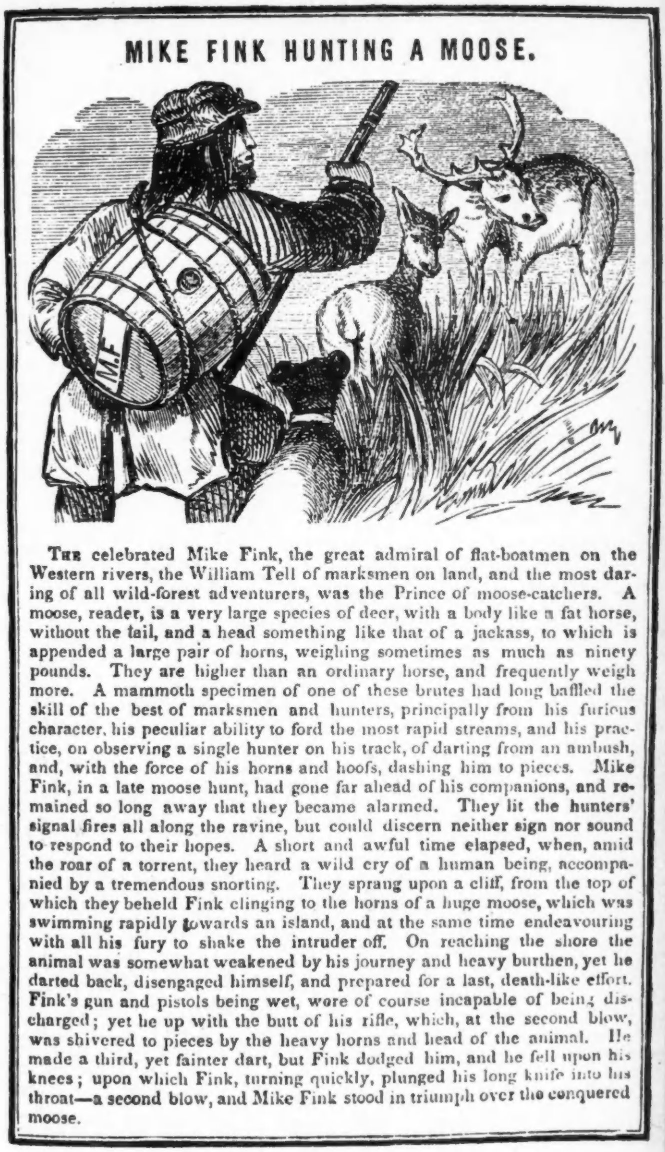
This was sort of a pledge of confidence exchanged between frontiersmen. The range was 30, 60, even 100 paces and the target was a tin drinking cup gripped between the knees or balanced on the head. Shots were exchanged, shooters and targets alternating. Mike Fink performed the stunt uncounted times, almost always when he was drunk or drinking.

At a landing below Louisville one day Mike bettered this feat by shooting the scalplock off a renegade Indian called Proud Joe. Proud Joe was not amused. He stalked Mike's keelboat through a thousand miles of swamp and river until finally Mike was forced to finish him with a knife. But times were changing.

The Mississippi was becoming peaceable. One by one, the dangers, the river pirates and Indians, succumbed to the westward press of civilization. In 1811 the *Orleans* steamed down the river from Pittsburgh. Mike watched it darkly—the supremacy of the keelboat was challenged. Even iron-muscled keelboatmen could not match the power of steam. There was an interlude during the War of 1812 when Mike and some of the other rivermen gave Andy Jackson a hand in



Mike Fink, the Ohio Boatman.



MIKE FINK HUNTING A MOOSE.

THE celebrated Mike Fink, the great admiral of flat-boatmen on the Western rivers, the William Tell of marksmen on land, and the most daring of all wild-forest adventurers, was the Prince of moose-catchers. A moose, reader, is a very large species of deer, with a body like a fat horse, without the tail, and a head something like that of a jackass, to which is appended a large pair of horns, weighing sometimes as much as ninety pounds. They are higher than an ordinary horse, and frequently weigh more. A mammoth specimen of one of these brutes had long baffled the skill of the best of marksmen and hunters, principally from his furious character, his peculiar ability to ford the most rapid streams, and his practice, on observing a single hunter on his track, of darting from an ambush, and, with the force of his horns and hoofs, dashing him to pieces. Mike Fink, in a late moose hunt, had gone far ahead of his companions, and remained so long away that they became alarmed. They lit the hunters' signal fires all along the ravine, but could discern neither sign nor sound to respond to their hopes. A short and awful time elapsed, when, amid the roar of a torrent, they heard a wild cry of a human being, accompanied by a tremendous snorting. They sprang upon a cliff, from the top of which they beheld Fink clinging to the horns of a huge moose, which was swimming rapidly towards an island, and at the same time endeavouring with all his fury to shake the intruder off. On reaching the shore the animal was somewhat weakened by his journey and heavy burthen, yet he darted back, disengaged himself, and prepared for a last, death-like effort. Fink's gun and pistols being wet, were of course incapable of being discharged; yet he up with the butt of his rifle, which, at the second blow, was shivered to pieces by the heavy horns and head of the animal. He made a third, yet fainter dart, but Fink dodged him, and he fell upon his knees; upon which Fink, turning quickly, plunged his long knife into his throat—a second blow, and Mike Fink stood in triumph over the conquered moose.

whipping the British at New Orleans. Judging from the number of redcoats who were left on the field, shot between the eyes, dead center, the long rifles did their share of execution. Then Mike Fink looked westward; listened to the tales of the mountain men and trappers.

In 1822, General William H. Ashley was in St. Louis, recruiting a company for his famous fur-trading expedition up the Missouri and Yellowstone. Principal transport was to be two big 100-foot keelboats. Mike signed on as patron of one.

A trading post and fort was built at the mouth of the Yellowstone. Mike and some companions holed up in a cave for the winter. Something happened to the great Mike Fink. He stagnated, drank more than even his rock-hard constitution could stand. He grew morose and unfriendly. He had an adopted son with him named Carpenter—simply that, no other name. There was trouble between them—something over the affections of an Indian squaw. The coming of Spring seems to have revived Mike Fink's better nature. Things were patched up and, after a drinking bout, he and Carpenter decided to 'shoot the cup.'

The story is muddled; the authenticated facts are slim and much overlaid with fabricated 'eye witness' accounts, but apparently Carpenter shot first and 'elevated too low.'

The bullet left an angry red crease in Mike's scalp. His blue narrowed.

"I taught you to shoot better than that," he growled, lifting old Bang-All to his shoulder. Carpenter went down with a bullet between his eyes.

Perhaps it was an accident; perhaps his scalp wound caused Mike Fink to waver. But those who had never known him to miss a shot muttered that it was murder. One was Talbott, the expedition's gunsmith—and, legend says, Carpenter's true father. Anyway, a few days later Talbott shot and killed Mike Fink with one of the dead Carpenter's pistols. And that was the passing of the greatest riverman.

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CONGRESS NEGLECTS RIFLEMEN

Few sessions of Congress have presented a worse record of mind-changing in mid-course, internal bickering, narrow sectionalism, and political partisanship than the current one. As a part of the general mess of confused thinking we are to have an enlarged air force without enlarged ground forces to capture or protect air bases. The Civil Air Patrol gains an official status but the civilian riflemen are left to shift for themselves. At this writing (June 9) it appears that we will have a restricted form of draft for military service but the time-saving element of pre-induction small-arms training on civilian ranges is to be completely neglected.

The House of Representatives has passed the Army Appropriation Bill without providing the funds requested by the NRA for National Matches or for the purchase of ammunition for issue to civilian rifle clubs. Officers of the Association are continuing the effort to obtain funds for at least small-bore and pistol nationals and for the purchase of ammunition by appearing before the Senate Committee, but even if the Senate approves the added money the House may delete the items when the Senate-House conferees meet. It is unlikely that anyone will know exactly what the Army Appropriation Bill will cover until Congress adjourns or recesses on June 19 to prepare for the national political conventions and the election campaign. By that date this magazine will be rolling off the presses and into the mail bags. In connection with the election campaign, riflemen may want to know the names of the members of the House sub-committee which rejected our requests for National Match and civilian rifle club funds. We do not know which of these men supported our efforts or which ones opposed them. When they come home to seek re-election their constituents might like to find out where they stand on civilian rifle practice and the National Matches. Here they are—

Representative John Taber, of New York
Representative Albert J. Engel, of Michigan
Representative Francis Case, of South Dakota
Representative Harve Tibbot, of Pennsylvania
Representative Errett P. Scrivner, of Kansas
Representative John H. Kerr, of North Carolina
Representative George H. Mahon, of Texas
Representative W. F. Norrell, of Arkansas.

No .30-Caliber Nationals—It is now a foregone conclusion that there will not be any .30 caliber National Matches in 1948. The sizeable sum required will not be available.

Small-Bore and Pistol Nationals—The Senate may add enough to the Army Appropriation Bill and the House may accept enough increase to permit holding small-bore and pistol nationals at Camp Perry. If this does not materialize, the NRA will try to arrange to hold these events somewhere without financial help from Congress.

Announcement by Bulletin—The Executive Committee of the NRA will be meeting when Congress adjourns. Decision will be made immediately as to plans for holding small-bore and pistol national championships. As soon as definite arrangements have been made a bulletin will be mailed to all club secretaries, to all registered shooters, and to all Official Referees for posting on the bulletin boards at registered tournaments. In this way the information will be gotten to tournament shooters as promptly as is humanly possible.

The conditions which have arisen this year with regard to the planning and operation of the National Matches have been completely beyond the control of the Association. They are obviously no more irritating to tournament shooters than to the officials who have to try to plan and operate the shooting program. The best possible plan will be worked out and all interested parties advised at the earliest practicable date.

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Warning to Shooters:

Several warnings to shooters and veterans are called for as the result of recent developments. They pertain to spare parts and complete arms of the following patterns:

U. S. Carbines, Caliber .30, M-1. Assembled. Practically all such weapons are subject to confiscation as U. S. government property. The only exceptions are those owned by a person who has a bill of sale from the Ordnance Department or from an Ordnance officer attached to one of the units in which such sales were authorized by field commanders. All such sales in theaters of operation were stopped by radio orders from Washington as soon as word had been received that carbines were being sold. The total number of legitimate sales of the carbine is not believed to have exceeded 300.

It must also be noted that practically all carbines have a barrel length of less than eighteen inches. They may not be legally possessed unless they are registered with the nearest agent of the Federal Alcohol Tax Unit, U. S. Internal Revenue Bureau, Treasury Department. There is no charge for such registration. If in serviceable condition they may not be transferred except upon notification to the Internal Revenue Bureau and payment of a $200 transfer tax. If the carbine is unserviceable, the transfer must be reported to the Internal Revenue Bureau, but no transfer tax is payable. Agents of the Federal Alcohol Tax Unit do not confiscate carbines presented for registration by veterans who brought the guns home as 'souvenirs.' If the effort is made to recapture these weapons for the Armed Services, the job will be done by those Services or perhaps in some cases by the FBI.

U. S. Rifles, Caliber .30, M-1 (Garand). All of the above comments concerning the carbine apply equally to the Garand except that *the Garand is not registerable.* Civilian clubs are in the clear on the Garands issued by the DCM.

U. S. Pistols, caliber .45, Model 1911. Various revolvers stamped 'U. S. Government Property.' All pistols and revolvers stamped 'U. S. Government Property' are subject to confiscation unless the owner can show a government bill of sale. Some guns so stamped have apparently been sold by the War Assets Administration to dealers. Anyone purchasing such a gun is opening himself to future difficulties proving legal ownership. Many handguns are appearing with serial numbers and the 'U. S.' property stamp filed or ground off of slides, barrels, or frames. The *possession* of all such weapons by dealers or individuals is illegal under the Federal Firearms Act and under the provisions of most state laws. It is not necessary to transfer, ship, or carry a handgun from which identifying marks have been removed in order to run afoul of the FBI or local law-enforcement agencies.

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A RIFLEMAN "HOW-TO-DO-IT"

DCM TREASURE

THAT UGLY OLD SPRINGFIELD CAN BE TURNED INTO A DELUXE SPORTER—OR A GOOD SOLID WORK GUN—IF YOU ARE HANDY WITH TOOLS

By T. B. GRESHAM

THE FATEFUL DAY has come. The express man has brought that long, flat box with the return address of an arsenal. And, as you prize off the lid, you say with Kipling's old soldier, "I sez to my flutterin' 'eart-strings, I sez to 'em, 'Peace, be still!'"

Then the fun is over, for the thing that comes out of the box reminds you of a combination blind date and mail-order bride. The stock is dirty brownish-black and the metal parts are just dirty, black and greasy with a lot of the grease spread around the stock. But hold it, brother, before you nail down the lid and bury the box in a corner of the attic junk room. I'm telling you that you have, in that homely object, any one of several fine sporting rifles ranging from the plain, but accurate and reliable, to the ultra deluxe, but also accurate and reliable, dream gun. And, what is more, you are the guy who can build it. I am not saying that this series of articles is going to serve as 'Ten Easy Lessons' on how to equal the work of Owen, Linden, Shelhamer, or even Tom Gresham. But I am saying that you have, before you start, one very important advantage over any professional. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WATCH THE CLOCK. You cannot build a fine sporter without manual or mental effort, but by thinking each step out before you start and by working slowly and carefully you can turn out work that any pro would be proud of.

This first article deals with the building of a plain, but neat and usable sporter with a minimum of expense for tools and materials and none for additional sights or parts. This job is well within the capabilities of anyone who can nail a lid on a box, put in faucet washers, or sand and revarnish the top of a table.

Let's start the ball rolling with a short dissertation on tools and the economics of tools. This gunsmith disagrees with the old adage that the best tools are the cheapest in the long run. If a manufacturer uses files enough to wear them out, it pays him to buy the very best, but the amateur gunsmith never wears out a file if he keeps it clean and doesn't throw it around. A dime-store file cuts just as well as any other when it is new, so by all means patronize the dime store.

But, there is a reverse of the coin. If you are buying precision tools, it pays to buy the best standard brands. Here you are buying precision, and precision guaranteed over a period of years. But, even here, don't go hog-tail-wild and feel that if thousandths of an inch is good, then ten-thousandths is ten times better. I once spent thirty-five bucks for a direct-reading, ten-thousandths mike that lives in its own cedar chest. I take it out and admire it every now and then, but I don't have real occasion to use it more than four or five times a year and I am a toolmaker and professional gunsmith. So, in selecting the tools listed at the end of this article, look over the stocks of the dime stores and mail-order houses as well as your local hardware and use your head for something besides an ornament.

The first consideration with any rifle is safety. Imagine that I've repeated that about four times with a lot of adjectives and cuss words for extra emphasis. A lot has been said about safety in the use of firearms, but not enough about the mechanical safety of the weapon itself. Rifles of the Springfield class develop a breech pressure of around 50,000 pounds per square inch. If the rifle is all right it is safe, but if it isn't it can be dangerous. If you have bought an 'unserviceable' Springfield, pack up the metal parts and send them to a first-class gunsmith for checking with particular reference to headspace, cracks in bolt or receiver, and firing pin contour and protrusion. I know that a skilled gunsmith can headspace a rifle by using maximum cartridges and steel shims even if he has no headspace gauges. I could tell you how it's done,

TOM GRESHAM has unusual qualifications as a RIFLEMAN *author. After 5 years of college English, he now operates his own gunsmithing shop in Salem, Virginia. In these articles, Tom is attempting to pass on to the beginner some of the things he has learned. The present article covers the conversion of a Springfield in its simplest elements—the "minimum sporter," as he calls it. Subsequent articles will go all of the way up the ladder, to that dream gun you have always wanted to build if you ever found the real thing in a "how-to-do-it." Well, here it is.*

but even if you have the gauges don't try it unless you have the requisite experience and skill. My pal, Bill Jones, might buy himself a good book on surgery and a whole flock of scalpels, haemostats, hypodermics and forceps, but I still wouldn't let him take my appendix out.

Now, with some of the verbiage and preliminaries out of the way, let's get down to a round-by-round, blow-by-blow description of the main bout. You have three screw drivers, selected because they're about right for the three general sizes of screws in the Springfield. Commercial screw drivers have a wedge shape which tends to make them wedge out of the slot and bugger up the head of screws, so file the sides for about an eighth of an inch at the tips of the blades so that the sides are parallel.

Now, proceed in order as follows:

1. Remove screw (A) at the muzzle end of the front sight. You may have to tap the dovetail block of the front sight a little to one side or the other before you can get the screw to start. Tap dovetail block out to the right with a piece of hard wood and light hammer blows. Hold the barrel close to the front sight in the padded jaws of a vise, if you have one, or rest it close to the sight on some solid support.

2. Remove screw (B) and tap the front band off, still using your piece of hard wood as a punch.

3. Loosen swivel screw (C), press in spring catch (D), and slide swivel band (E) forward and off the muzzle. Lift handguard (F) forward and off.

4. Lay the rifle on its side, projecting over the edge of the table, or on your lap. Opposite the spring catch (D) you will find a small hole through the side of the stock. Insert your 3/32 drift punch and drive out the tail of (D).

5. Place cut-off (G) in middle position, raise the bolt handle, and pull the bolt all the way out of the action.

6. Raise rear sight leaf (H) and turn windage screw (I) clockwise until rear sight no longer moves. Turn sight the rest of the way to right angles with the barrel by hand and then lift it off.

7. Press knob of windage screw (I) to the left against the spring pressure and work the whole windage screw to the rear and out from under the front end of the rear sight base.

8. Turn the rifle bottom up and press down with your drift punch on the little flat piece that sticks up inside the hole at the rear of floor plate (J). Slide the floor plate to the rear with your thumb while you keep the pressure on with the punch. Usually the plate just snaps out, but you may have to hit it smartly in a rearward direction with the heel of your hand. Lift out the floor plate, spring, and follower.

9. Hold the rifle down solidly on bench, table, or floor, and remove guard screws (K) and (L). Press down hard on the screw driver while you turn it and keep it upright and in line so that it won't jump out of the slots of the screws and spoil their heads. File your screw driver to fit the slots closely, both in thickness and width. Lift the stock up and off the barrel and action.

10. Turn the stock over. Usually a few light taps on the piece that sticks up inside the stock at the rear of the magazine opening will loosen the magazine and trigger guard assembly so that it will drop out of the stock. Use a piece of wood or the handle of the hammer.

11. Remove screws and lift out the rear sling swivel (M).

12. Take off the buttplate (N).

13. Tune in the radio to your favorite station and select whichever brand of soap flakes seems most convincing or least objectionable. Procure the soap of your choice and an old nail brush and repair with these and your stock to the kitchen. Use soap, not some of these new, fancy detergents. The detergents may be fine for dishes or laundry, but they might play hob with any later finish that you put on the stock. Wet

So that even a beginner can follow his directions, the author has lettered each part discussed in the article. All photos are of "as-issued" rifle

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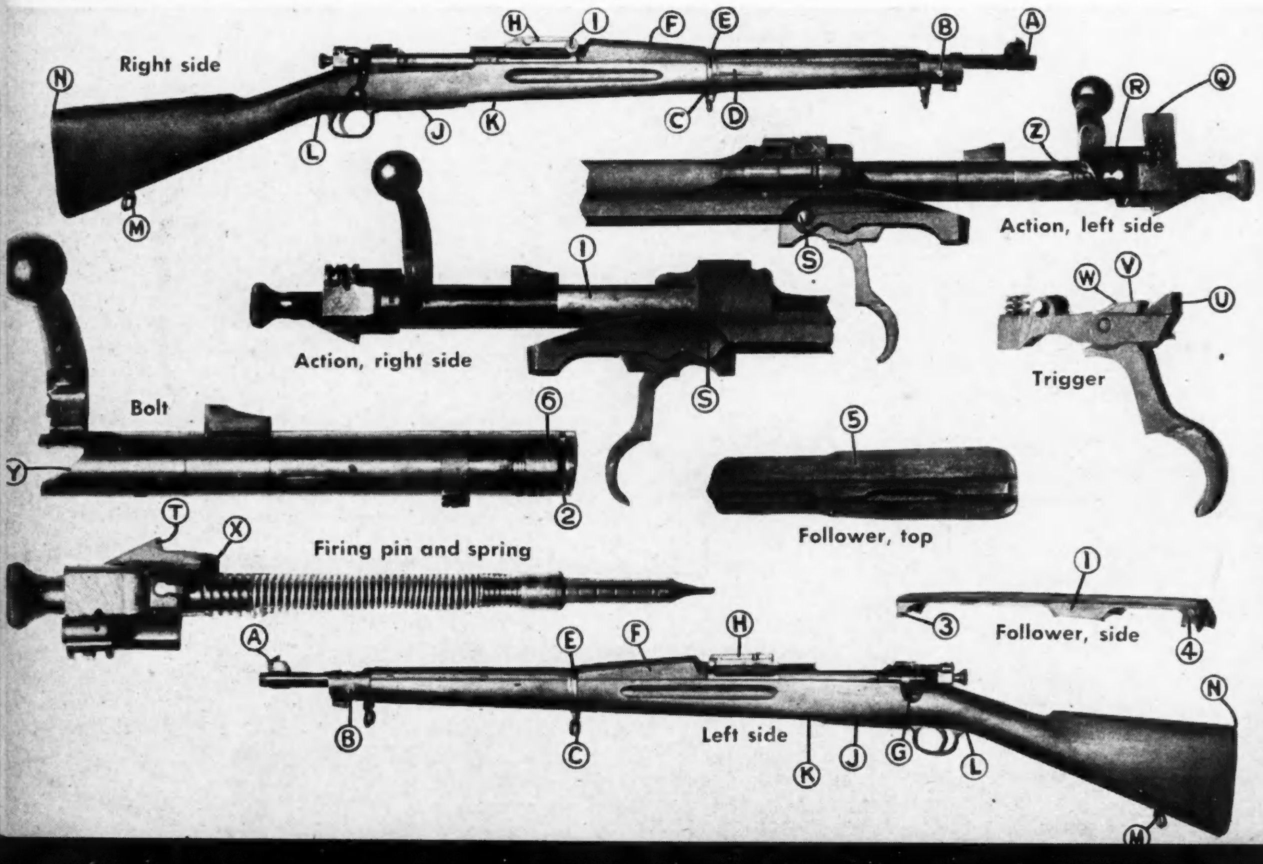

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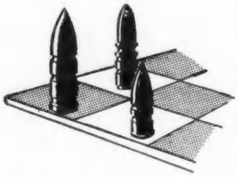
your brush with hot water, sprinkle some soap flakes on it, and work up a storm of lather on that filthy stock. Scrub it good and hard. A little scrubbing on the inside of the barrel and action cuts won't hurt it any, but don't overdo this work on the inside. Don't dip or soak the stock in water, just scrub on it hard with a stiff brush and good, thick lather. Now, rinse the stock under hot running water, just enough to get the soap off the surface, and then dry quickly with cloth or paper towels. Have the biggest burner of the gas or electric stove lighted, or open a lid of the coal range. Pass the stock back and forth very quickly within a couple of inches of the flame, rolling it over all the time and never letting it stand still for a moment. The idea is to get the whole stock so hot that you will have to wear gloves to hold it, but not to let it stay in one place long enough to char the wood. Be particularly careful of the thin edges of the stock as these are the places that are likely to burn quickest. Try out just how hot you can get it on the first six inches of the front of the stock, as you're going to throw this away anyhow.



You're going to have a lot of oil spewing out and you can get the oil hot enough to smoke without burning the wood of the stock. Try to keep most of this oil wiped off with your paper towels. Some of it may be linseed, but one heck of a lot of it is going to be lubricants and rust-preventing mineral compounds. The linseed oil isn't going to hurt your finish but the other stuff certainly will. A finish that is mixed with lubricants will never dry out.

When you have about all the water dried off the stock, start in and repeat the soaping, rinsing, and drying. You may have to repeat this process four to six times until the stock oozes little if any oil when it is heated in the drying process. Try to do this part of the job straight through at one time. It will take a lot longer to get the oil out if you let it set and cool overnight between washings.

After the final drying over the gas range, let the stock stand for about twenty-four hours in a dry place to work any extra moisture out of the surface. While you are waiting for this to dry, you can give the metal parts a thorough scrubbing with Stoddard's Solvent, which is what most of the dry cleaning establishments use. It is sold by all of the oil companies under trade names. It's just as good for cleaning guns as gasoline, and much less dangerous.

After the metal parts have dried, swab the bore thoroughly with vaseline (not carbolated) or some one of the regular commercial rust preventives. Go over all parts outside thoroughly with the same compound. Sometimes it will work faster if you brush the protector on pretty liberally with an old toothbrush and then wipe off all you can with a clean cloth. A thin, almost invisible film works just as well as gobs and makes things go better when you get to working with it around the stock that you've just scrubbed down.

14. Lay the barrel and action back in the stock and put the handguard in place. Cut a strip of light cardboard one and three-quarter inches wide and about four or five inches long. The length doesn't matter, nor does the width have to be exact, but you must have the strip an even width the whole way. Hold or tape this strip around the stock and handguard in place of the swivel band (E) with the rear of the strip close against the shoulder that supported the band. Mark around the front edge of the cardboard with pencil and remove the cardboard.

15. Take screw (C) out of the swivel band (E) and remove the sling swivel. Put the screw back in the band. After taking the barrel and action out of the stock, replace the swivel band around the stock and handguard and tighten up screw (C). Put the front band back on to hold the handguard in line and replace screw (B). If you have a vise, pad the jaws and grip the stock lightly just in rear of the handguard with the stock on its side with the top toward you. Grip firmly but lightly, or you'll crush the stock. If you have no vise, pad the top of your bench or table and hold the stock down, or have a helper do the holding for you. Saw off the stock and handguard on the line laid out in paragraph 14. Use your fine tooth hack saw (24 teeth to the inch or finer) and saw very lightly, or you will splinter out the edges of the stock or handguard.

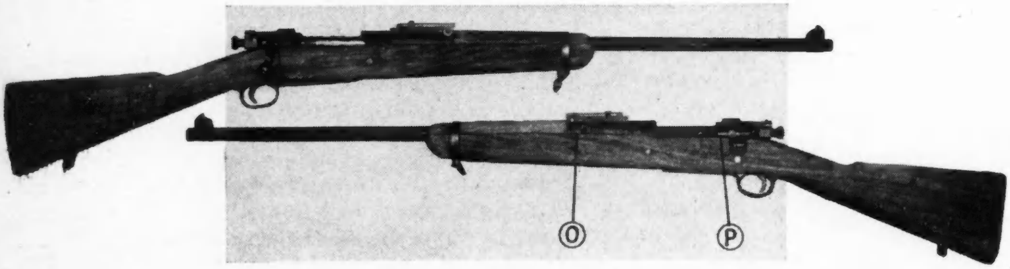
16. We now note with horror that there will be a gap between the barrel and the end of the sawed-off stock that a cat with a large litter of kittens could crawl through without mussing her fur. Don't let that faze you. Unless you are good at wood inlays, get a tube or small can of walnut Plastic Wood and some waxed paper or, better still, some of this aluminum foil that is used for wrapping lunches or food in the icebox. Cover the barrel from the rear sight base to a couple of inches beyond where the end of your stock is going to be with a *single* layer of waxed paper or foil. Smooth it out carefully and hold it in place with adhesive or Scotch tape. Put all the seams on top. Now open your Plastic Wood and work fast because the stuff begins to set very quickly to the point where it will not adhere to the wood of the stock. Mould into the barrel channel with your fingers enough of the plastic to more than fill up the gap around the barrel. If you are lazy, fill in back to the first lightening cut in the bottom of the stock. Or, fill in back to the sight base. Don't try to fill in the lightening cuts, but don't be fussy if some of the goo oozes down into the cuts. You can get it out later when it's dry. Rub it on all the way up to the edges of the stock. Put in your barrel and action and the trigger guard, and pull the guard screws (K) and (L) up tight. Fill in cut left by removal of spring catch (D). Let it stand to dry out for at least forty-eight hours as the Plastic Wood dries very slowly under the waxed paper or foil.

Cut away the foil from around the top of the barrel, loosen the guard screws and carefully lift the barrel and action out of the stock. You will now be able to peel most of the foil out of the barrel channel. If the Plastic Wood is not rock hard under the foil, let it harden for another twenty-four hours. Once you have removed most of the foil, the Plastic Wood ~~will~~ dry out very fast, but don't worry if some pieces of foil refuse to come free of the plastic. They won't hurt anything if you leave them there.

Sandpaper or rasp away with the smooth end of your rasp any of the Plastic Wood that has oozed out over the top edges of the stock, but take it slowly because you don't want to cut into the wood of the stock and leave a flock of nasty gaps when you put the handguard back in place.

Put the barrel and action back in the stock and tighten the guard screws. Smooth another piece of foil over the barrel and stock for about four inches at the front end of the stock. Fill in the front two inches of the handguard with the Plastic Wood, slip the rear of the guard into place under the rear sight and press down hard against the barrel. Clamp in place with the swivel band (E) and let stand for another forty-eight hours. Repeat the removal of the excess Plastic Wood, removal of the foil and final drying as with the lower part of the stock.

Take your rasp and trim down the hump on the handguard until you have a straight contour from the rear sight base to the top of the swivel band. Take a good look at the illustration of the finished sporter and try to follow these lines. Put a neat radius at the rear of the handguard down along the sides. Start your cuts with the rough side of the rasp and finish with the fine, always leaving enough wood to be taken care of by the coarse and fine sandpaper. Sandpaper can take off a great deal of wood. Be careful at the edges. Try to rasp from the edge toward the body of the stock. A carelessly used, coarse rasp can split off some mighty big splinters. Keep your rasp clean with the file card.



Here is what the author calls a "minimum sporter." It can be built by anyone, with a minimum of tools, and with no additional outlay for accessories. Despite that simplicity, it is a practical hunting rifle

If your have a small block plane, a small draw knife and wood and cabinetmakers' rasps and know how to use them, the work will go faster. When you get the edges nearly down to match, you had better put the barrel and action back in the stock so that the rear sight base will hold the handguard properly lined up. Then you can be sure that the sides will be a nice, even match.

17. Take the metal parts out of the stock and take a good, long look at the picture of the finished sporter, with particular reference to the fore-end tip. Now go to work with your rasp and do your best to copy it. Use only the fine side of your rasp when you get on the Plastic Wood or you will split it away from the stock. Don't be tempted to reverse the angle of the slope at the front end. The slope was put in that way on the pilot model to take some of the curse off the thickness of the handguard above the barrel. If you turn it the other way, you're just going to make it worse. I'm not trying to be dogmatic about questions of design, but when you've ruined as many stocks as I have you're going to try to spare the other guy some grief.

18. Now you can start in with the fine side of your rasp and round off the outer corners (O) to (P). If the buttplate is down below the level of the wood, rasp off the stock to match it, but carry your rasping forward so that you can lay a straightedge along the side of the stock and have it touch everywhere, almost up to the grip. If there are any bad cuts or gouges in the stock, you can save time by working them out with the rasp. You may find that same of them are so deep that you would have to cut away too much of a stock that is already on the skinny side. If this is the case, just fill them up with a little Plastic Wood or ignore them. You can round the lower corners of the forearm from along the sides of the magazine to the swivel band, but don't overdo this as the size at the front is fixed by the swivel band, and if you cut away too much wood you're going to have one of those horrible concave fore-ends.

Start the sandpaper job with a very coarse grade—about No. 4—and sand always with the grain of the stock. Hold your paper around a wood block when you are working around the edges of the stock, as the sandpaper will round off and cut down the thin edge before you know it. You can use some of this coarse sandpaper to round over the edges of the grasping grooves in the fore stock. Use the coarse paper until you have removed all rasp marks from the stock. Don't get lazy and leave some in there in the fond hope that the finer grades of paper will get them out. You'll just have more work for yourself in the end. Continue the sanding with finer and finer grades of paper down to 000. Always remove the marks left by the previous grade before proceeding to a finer grade, and don't spare the paper. When it gets worn out, or too badly filled, throw it away and start with a fresh piece. Fifty cents extra spent for sandpaper will save a lot of extra work and give a much better finish.

When your stock is as smooth as you can get it with the finest paper, wet it all over on the outside to raise the grain, and dry it quickly over the stove burner—much as you did after you washed the stock, but this time you don't want to do it as long and as hard. All you want is to dry out the surface moisture. Take a new piece of your finest sandpaper and sand very lightly with quick strokes to cut off the whiskers. 'Wet-or-Dry' paper in about No. 300 grade is fine for this. Repeat this wetting-drying-sanding process until you get no more crops of whiskers on the stock. With a drill small enough to make a tight fit for a five-eighths inch section of a small nail, drill about half an inch into both sides of the fore-end tip, just ahead of the swivel band (E). Drive in sections of nail with the tops nicely rounded off until they are flush with the band. These are to keep the band from working off forward.

Let the stock stand overnight to be sure it is perfectly dry and give it a thin coat of the best grade, quick drying, clear lacquer. It won't hurt if you thin the lacquer with the proper type of thinner for the first coat or two. Coat the inside of the stock with the first couple of coats. The directions say let it dry four to six hours, but you'd better give it a full twenty-four. Rub down with fine steel wool until you have removed all the gloss and any bumps you may have turned up from putting the lacquer on too thick. Then repeat the lacquering and rubbing-down routine, anywhere from three to six times until you get a smooth, even surface after rubbing down, with all the pores of the wood well filled. Now, give it a well rubbed-in coat of a good grade of paste furniture wax, polish with a soft, lint-free cloth, and you are through with the woodwork.

19. Raise and lower the bolt to cock the rifle and raise the safety (Q) to the upright position as shown in the illustration. Remove the bolt from the rifle and press in on spring catch (R) turning the whole rear assembly to the left. This will unscrew from the bolt, bringing the firing pin along with it.

Drive out pin (S) which will let the trigger and sear assembly spring out. You'd better hold it with your thumb or it may pop out enough for you to lose the spring.

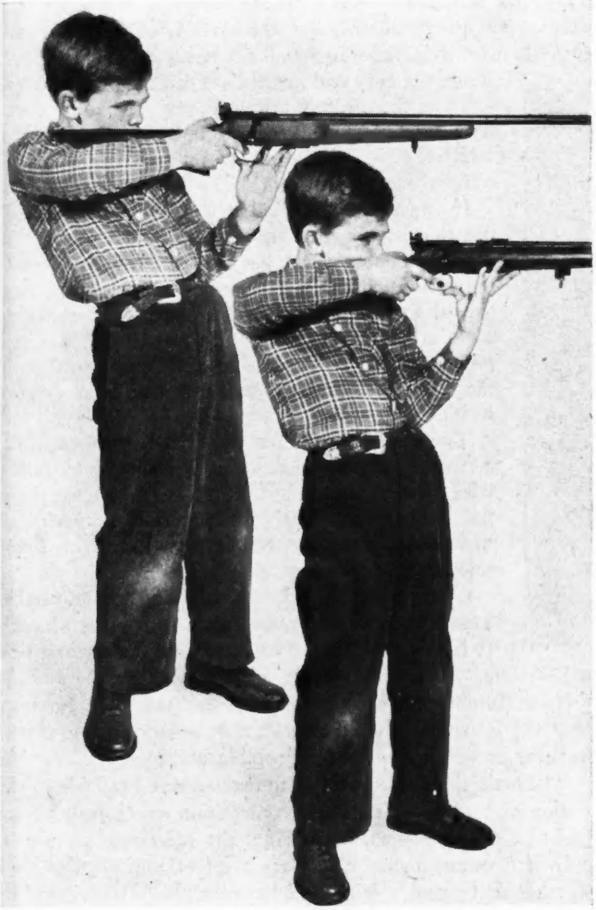
Take your small India stone and stone the face of (T) and (U) until you have removed all roughness and tool marks. Take very short strokes with the tip *(Continued on page 39)*

WHAT ABOUT THE JUNIORS?

ARE MISFIT RIFLES KILLING THE INTEREST OF THE SHOOTERS OF TOMORROW?...A DOPE BAG "REVIEW" BY EDWARDS BROWN, JR.

DID YOU EVER TRY to ride a horse when the stirrups were dangling down beyond your toes' reach? Or run a foot race in pants with the crotch around your knees? Trying to shoot a rifle that doesn't fit is just as ridiculous, but apparently it is not quite as obvious—at least to our arms manufacturers, who don't see fit to make a target rifle for the small fry. As a result, a lot of unsuspecting kids who have been waiting for the day when they can shoot a 'real' rifle are painfully warped into a man-sized stock—and their enthusiasm gets its first and perhaps fatal jolt.

Rifles that don't fit are particularly unpleasant on the target range when someone tries to show Junior 'how it should be done.' After demonstrating the correct prone position, the instructor places Junior on the line and hands him a rifle measuring about thirteen inches from butt to trigger. After the handstop has been adjusted to its rearmost position, and the sling shortened, Junior is ready to do a little dry firing.



John Winterberg (age 8; height 4 feet, 8½ inches; arm length 22⅛ inches) has done very little rifle shooting and has never had either of these two rifles in his hands before the photographs were taken. At left he is shown shooting a seven-pound rifle which measures 13¼ inches from butt to trigger. At right he is shown with a cut-down Winchester Model 69 which measures 11½ inches from butt to trigger. In addition to the stock being too long on the rifle with a 13¼ inch butt, making it difficult for him to get his face forward on the stock, the weight is also too far forward

Following directions, Junior gets into the prone position and his instructor tries to size up the situation. The youngster's position is a pitiful thing to behold, but the instructor figures he'll bring the boy around in time. "Now, son," he says, "get your left elbow under the piece and bring your position up a little higher." Junior tries and finally suggests that the sling is too tight.

"No," says the instructor knowingly, "you need a tight sling. If you get into position properly I think that sling will be about right. Swing 'round to the left a little, spread your your legs well apart, and try again. You'll be a little uncomfortable at first."

With the knowledge that he's not really supposed to be comfortable, Junior puts the rifle to his shoulder, grits his teeth, and pulls in his elbow. He tries to sight this modern off-shoot of a torture rack but water has welled up in his eyes and he can't see. The instructor, sensing that the boy is groping for the sight, offers help. "Bring your eye up closer. You can't get a good sight picture unless you get close up to that peep sight." Junior inches forward amid grunts and moans. He finally gets his eye up to the sight and gives a sigh of relief. "Now you've got it, son—try snapping a few, and then we'll try a couple of shots."

Pleased with his success so far, the instructor stands up to get a better look at his subject's position. "Here, here, fellow. Get the butt on your shoulder. You're not supposed to have the stock tucked under your armpit." Junior finally gets the 13-inch stock on his shoulder but his eye comes away from the sight and his left arm goes limp with the rifle on top of it.

Junior takes a breather and tries again. After a further struggle he is permitted to shoot five rounds with the best position he can get. Of course, his score is practically nil. Whose wouldn't be? Junior is not coming back for any more of this kind of target shooting unless the bug has bitten him pretty deep.

Trying to get Junior interested in shooting after putting him through such an ordeal as that doesn't make sense, yet it happens every day. And it's one reason why so many shooters say that they have a fine club but they are worried about its future. There just aren't any young fellows coming along.

Of course, the answer to Junior's shooting problem is that the stock is too big for him. Perhaps the rifle is too heavy as well. The weight, however, is not as much of a damning factor as the stock. We'll say that Junior's arm is only 23 inches from armpit to finger tips. The stock was made for a man with a corresponding measurement of about 30 inches. Even if Junior *does* learn to shoot with that oversize stock, and the handstop way forward, he will probably develop into one of those low-position shooters who worry referees and range officers.

Judging from the kids in my own neighborhood, I'd say that 99 percent of all boys (and a large percentage of girls) want to shoot a rifle. What couldn't the manufacturers of a breakfast food do with that kind of interest? Because of a discouraging initiation, however, few juniors stay with formal target shooting. As a matter of fact, not many have the opportunity of doing any other kind without being looked upon as vandals. The handful of enthusiasts who do become died-in-the-wool 'junior shooters' have an overabundance of interest and determination—or they have the good fortune of owning a rifle made to fit them.

Looking into the various target rifles already available for juniors, we find there aren't any. Let's alter our approach and investigate the changes necessary to convert the available rifles to Junior's target use. That is, a rifle with which Junior can cut his eye teeth and get a start. The Winchester Model 67 Junior rifle deserves mention as a hunting or plinking arm for the youngsters. It is not adaptable, however, to target use. The 67 is too light to start with, weighing only 4½ pounds, and it is not equipped with target sights. The maker has designed it for junior dimensions with a measurement of 12 inches from butt to trigger and an overall length of 34½ inches. For the extremely young beginner the Model 67 Junior could be altered to serve as a target rifle. The rifle as is retails for $13.50. More suitable sights and an adjustable handstop could be added for about $13.00.

To qualify for Junior's use, and meet his needs, a rifle must be accurate, capable of mounting good target sights, have a reasonably respectable trigger, and must not be too expensive. The rifles on the market which fall into this group are listed in the table of page 27. The chart on the same page shows suggested dimensions which will serve as a guide in converting them to junior rifles. The listed arm-length measurements are from armpit to finger tips. (Dr. O. Solnitzky, head of the anatomy department of Georgetown University, says that as a rule the arm-length measurement can be taken as indicative of the normal individual's general physical dimensions.)

Wouldn't it be a worthwhile investment for any club to cut down a couple of target rifles for use in initiating juniors, women, and shorter men?

If a club does do this, the rifles should be equipped with good micrometer rear sights and aperture front sights. The medium-priced Lyman, Redfield, and Vaver sights, with extensions, are fine. For front sights, target shooters have settled on the hooded aperture. That's what practically all of them use. Then why put a post or bead sight on junior target rifles? Given a rifle that fits, and accurate target sights like the seniors use, the young fellows can learn fast and do a bang-up job in stiff competition.

The small kids can handle a medium-weight target rifle providing the stock fits them. It is important to let them get started with a light 6- to 7-pound rifle if possible, however. Good rifles for starting boys or girls who have arm lengths of 23 inches or less are the Winchester Model 69 Match (converted), the Remington Model 521 TL Junior Rifle (converted), or the new Harrington and Richardson Model 250 (converted).

For the larger juniors, having an arm length from about 23 to 26 inches, an 8½ - or 9-pound rifle is recommended. Our own preferences for conversion are the Harrington and Richardson Medalist, the Remington Model 521T, or the Winchester Model 75, although the Mossberg Model 44 US is inviting, considering the difference in price and the fact that the rifle will shoot with good accuracy. Generally, the sights will need attention. Some of the early prewar Mossberg sights were pretty sloppy, but the ones tried by the NRA since the war are positive in action and made of good material. However, they still are not as good for precise target work as the medium-priced Vaver, Lyman, or Redfield sights. The Savage and Stevens rear sights which the NRA has tried are not positive enough for competitive target shooting.

If you think the small medium-priced rifles will not shoot with good accuracy, try them again. If they don't shoot as you get them, a little experimenting with the bedding will make them perform. Any one of the rifles listed in the chart (and probably some others not tested), with proper bedding and proper sights, are capable of making possibles over the Dewar Course. That fact has been demonstrated.

There is no price on accuracy at the present time. You can pay big money for a heavy, high-priced rifle, which may not give any better accuracy than the lower-priced jobs. It is usually necessary to experiment with the bedding on even the finest rifles to make them do their best.

Cutting off a stock and inletting an adjustable handstop does not require much equipment or skill. It is a job which can be done over the kitchen sink if necessary. The only trouble with cutting off the stock is that, as Junior grows up, it may become too short for him. But why isn't this an opportunity for some enterprising manufacturer to produce a good adjustable butt?

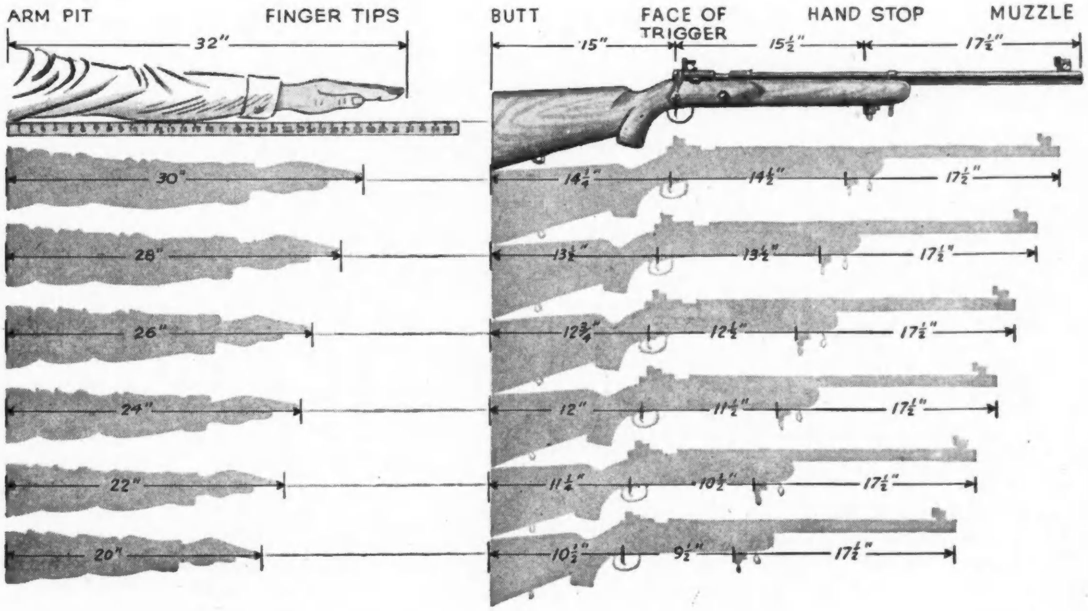
The main thing, of course, is to make a rifle available to the junior with which he can enter competition on a pure pleasure basis. Once interested, he will get the equipment he wants, even if it comes high. There are a lot of juniors who have weathered the rough going and have bought Winchester 52's and Remington 37's out of their paper route money.

The emphasis here has been on target rifles—not because of a feeling that the subject is more important than hunting but because of the realization that only a limited number can ever enjoy hunting privileges. There are no limitations on the expansion of the target-shooting game. ◆ ◆ ◆

Rifle:	Approximate Weight With Sling:	Barrel Length, Inches:	Overall Length, Inches:	Sight With Which Rifle Comes Equipped:	Initial Cost, 5/15/48:	Extra Equipment Recommended for Conversion:	Total Minimum Cost of Converted Rifle Excluding Labor:
H.&R. 451 Medalist	10 lbs., 8 oz.	26	44	Lyman (524 extension rear; 77 front).	$59.00	None	$59.00
Remington 513-T	9 lbs.	28	45	Redfield (No. 75 extension rear; globe front).	53.50	None	53.50
Winchester 75	8 lbs., 10 oz.	27	45	Win. (84-A extension rear; No. 99-A front).	53.50	None	53.50
Stevens 416-2	9 lbs., 8 oz.	26	44	Stevens rear and front target.	53.20	Rear sight (Redfield 75 HV or Lyman 57 MS).	60.50
Savage 19	7 lbs., 8 oz.	25½	45½	Savage rear and front target.	53.50	Rear sight (Redfield 70GT); adjustable hand stop (Win. 32).	63.02
H.&R. 250	7 lbs., 2 oz.	22	40	H.&R. (middle sight; blade front sight).	29.95	Rear sight (Redfield 75 HV); front sight (Redfield 65). Adjustable hand stop (Win. 32), sling strap.	44.50
Winchester (Match) 69	6 lbs.	25	42	Lyman 57E extension rear; Winchester No. 101 front.	37.80	Front sight (Lyman 17A-SF, Vaver No. W-11-AT or G. & H. Junior); Adjustable hand stop (Winchester 32).	43.30
Remington 521T	7 lbs.	25	42½	Lyman 57RS extension rear; partridge blade front.	36.95	Front sight (Lyman 17A-M1, Redfield 68 or Vaver 36-FS or G. & H. Junior).	39.95
Mossberg 44 US	8 lbs., 8 oz.	26	43	Mossberg (S130 rear; 106 front).	27.90	Hand stop (Win. 32).	30.42

Above: The NRA's choice of junior rifles best adapted to conversion for teen-age shooters and the recommended modifications to make them fit

Below: Showing the butt lengths required for arms from 20 to 32 inches long, this chart can be used as a guide in modifying standard rifles for junior use



Join the Big Parade-

NRA's FIRST ANNUAL MEMBERS CONVENTION

WASHINGTON • OCTOBER 25-28

and bring the family along!

ONE STANDARD COMPLAINT ABOUT the shooting game is that it takes a man away from his family too much—particularly if he is a good hard-working club officer.

We thought about that in planning for the First Annual Convention because we particularly want to get those hard-working club officers to attend this great idea-exchanging affair.

The men-folks are going to be plenty busy during the day swapping ideas in panel discussions and learning how and why the NRA operates, but their evenings will be free except on the night of the big banquet when the ladies will be welcome. And during the day what a time the wife and youngsters can have!

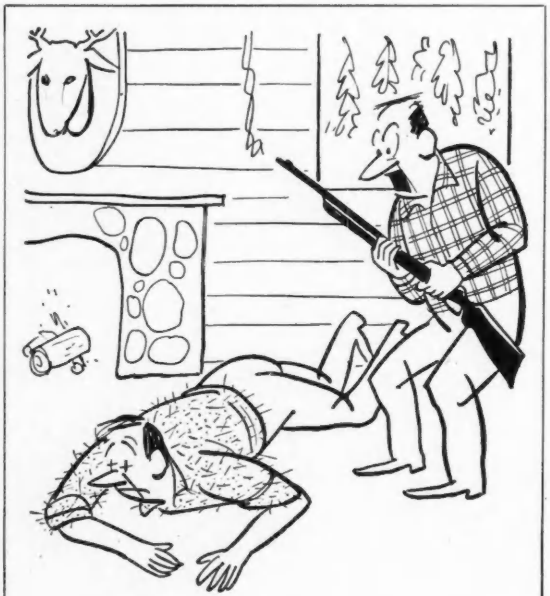
In selecting the Nation's Capital as the site for the first NRA Convention, part of the plan, of course, was based on the unexcelled opportunities that Washington offers in culture and education to the families of attending NRA members. For children, the visit will entail absence from school for several days—but against that short absence weigh the educational value of these experiences.

The Nation's Capitol: An awe-inspiring building architecturally, the Capitol of the United States from a public interest standpoint ranks second to no building in the world. House and Senate, Rotunda and Statuary Hall, all open to visitors.

White House: Home of the Presidents since John Adams in 1800. The library, diplomatic reception room, the East Room and state dining room are among many open to visitors. Portraits, furniture and possessions of many Presidents are on view.

Supreme Court: Built of more marble than any other one structure in existence, the Supreme Court building has its place high among the beautiful structures of the world. The interior and exterior of the building itself contain examples of the finest contemporary art of our time.

Washington Monument: Highest masonry structure in the world, the monument to George Washington has become, with the Capitol, the 'trade mark' of the city of Washington. Fast elevators carry the visitor to its lofty observation windows 500 feet above the ground.



"Oh! Is that what you were trying to tell me? It was loaded!"

Lincoln Memorial: The Capital's most-visited shrine and one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Within the central hall is its one-hundred-and-fifty ton Daniel Chester French statue of Abraham Lincoln.

Jefferson Memorial: The three-million-dollar memorial to Thomas Jefferson has only recently been completed on the south side of the Tidal Basin. The building rivals the Lincoln Memorial in beauty of design.

National Museum: Separated by one block, the 'old' and the 'new' National Museums are among the finest of the world. Here among a tremendously varied array of exhibits covering hundreds of fields of interest may be seen the first automobile, first locomotive, the Wright brothers' first successful airplane and Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis.

National Zoological Park: One hundred and seventy six acres of natural parkland in the center of Washington, set aside for a zoo known to natives and visitors as 'The Best Show in Town.' The finest bird, reptile and elephant houses ever built and an air-conditioned small mammal house unique in zoo construction have contributed to making Washington the most zoo-minded city in the country.

Library of Congress: The largest and most complete library in the world is open to your inspection and use every day of the week. No library in existence can match it for size and grandeur or for number of books, prints, and documents available. The originals of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States are on constant display.

Mount Vernon, Home of George Washington: Sixteen miles from Washington by beautiful Memorial Highway, the southern mansion home of George Washington faces the wide Potomac River. Here he lived and farmed from 1759 until his death, excepting only the period of his term as President of the United States.

Arlington Mansion: Colonial home of the Custis's and Lees, where Robert E. Lee brought his bride. Completely furnished from slave quarters to crystal-chandeliered living room.

Arlington Cemetery: Where lie the honored dead of many wars. ◆ ◆ ◆

In over forty years of hunting, on safari in Africa, in the swamps of Florida, in the mountains of southern Europe, in the dense jungle of South America, and in the woods of western Canada, the author has fired only about 200 shots at big and medium game, bagging from 85 to 100 head

HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU SHOOT?

By RALPH J. TOTTEN

THE OTHER NIGHT I was having a very pleasant big-game hunt from my armchair, letting memory take me back over many fine shooting trips I'd had in Canada, South America, Europe, and Africa, and thinking of the rifles I'd used and the number of shots I'd fired during my forty-odd years as a hunter-rifleman. Taking paper and pencil, I began a sort of tabulation of rifles used, cartridges fired, and approximate head of big game killed in my all-time bag.

In the first place I was surprised to find that in my whole life I've owned some thirteen rifles, and this number shrinks when it is noted that four of them were .22 rim fires, and three were for the .30-'06 cartridge. But the really amazing thing was the surprisingly small number of cartridges I've fired at game larger than a rabbit when taking into consideration the number of hunts I have been on and the amount of game I've killed. There are two conclusions to be inferred from this information: First, that it is not a matter of which rifle one uses that puts meat in the game bag or a trophy on the wall of the den, but how well one can use the gun that he owns. Second, that dry shooting and target practice of any sort can prepare a man for successfully killing game more readily than the spending of large sums of money for guides, expensive equipment, or many trips into hunting territory before he has learned to know his rifle thoroughly and to use it efficiently.

I was taught to line up rifle sights by my father, and when I was ten years old I was permitted to have a single-shot, falling-block rifle, using the .22 short cartridge. That first and most wonderful of all weapons, which cost three dollars and fifty cents, although inarticulate, taught me many things that I've found useful all my life. I learned that to cover your target roughly, as you would with a shotgun, and pull the trigger simply meant another wasted cartridge—and cartridges were precious in those days. To have any chance of a hit meant getting the front sight correctly set in the notch of the rear sight, dead on the target, then held in that position until the hammer fell and the bullet was on its way.

That last requisite is far and away the most important and easiest forgotten thing in rifle shooting. At the beginning of each big-game hunt, I find that I must remind myself and school myself anew that I can't center my sight on the target, then consider the task done, and yank the trigger. Everything must be held in perfect alignment until the kick of the rifle throws you out of position, then you can begin to call your shots and consider yourself on the road to becoming a rifleman.

In 1904, as an officer in Tennessee National Guard, I became the possessor of a .30 caliber Krag, but I never had a chance to fire it. In 1906, as an officer of the District of Columbia National Guard, I was able to turn in the Krag for the then brand-new Springfield. From that time until today I've had a rifle shooting the .30-'06 cartridge.

I did not take a rifle with me on my first foreign service assignment but I did take the Springfield to my second post in Venezuela where deer, pumas, and jaguars were to be found. I don't even know whether or not the ammunition companies had begun loading sporting cartridges for the .30-'06 by 1910, but I had only some of the full-jacketed Army ammunition. After wounding and losing a couple of deer, I stopped using the rifle and did all my hunting with a shotgun and buckshot.

My third post was Trieste, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and being totally ignorant of game conditions in the Old World, I stored the Springfield at my home and more or less forgot all about it, taking only a shotgun with me.

The author (right) sitting with guides around a camp fire in Canada. On six different trips, Totten has spent about twelve weeks in the Canadian woods and fired a total of sixteen shots, killing four moose and six bear

I was amazed to find that Austria-Hungary at that time had about as fine small and medium game hunting as any part of the world. For the scattergun there were migratory quail, woodcock, grey partridges, red-leg partridges, several kinds of grouse, hares, and waterfowl; for the rifleman there were chamois, red deer, roe deer, and foxes, as well as the two large grouse, and blackcock and capercaillie, which were generally stalked during the mating season and shot with a small-bore center-fire rifle with full-jacketed bullets.

Almost all of my hunting companions who did any great amount of shooting had a 6.5 mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer rifle with a telescope sight, and I had the opportunity of using one of these little weapons from time to time. It was a case of love at first sight. Light, trim, with almost no recoil, yet wonderfully accurate at game distances, I felt I'd never be completely happy until I could call one my own.

A Mannlicher with a good scope sight cost at that time approximately one hundred and fifty dollars, and the budget of a young, poorly-paid consul couldn't be stretched to include such luxuries, so I had to postpone the joy of ownership for several years. I traded for, and owned for a short time, a .401 Winchester self-loader which I found so unsuited to local shooting conditions that I soon got rid of it. I used it only once on game on a deer drive in the Southern Tyrol Mountains. I killed a fair stag with it at not more than twenty-five yards, putting three of the heavy, blunt-nosed bullets in a six-inch group back of its shoulder.

From 1914 to 1919, I was foreign service inspector for western Europe and did no rifle shooting of any kind, but in 1919 I caught the Austrian crown in a power dive and with the exchange overwhelmingly in my favor I at last bought the Mannlicher I'd wanted so long. I'm almost ashamed to say that the one hundred and fifty dollars worth of rifle and sight cost me in cash twenty-eight dollars.

On my next home leave I took the Mannlicher with me to Florida where I had my first chance to try it on game, and I very much doubt if many new rifles have ever had such a glorious breaking-in. I fired a total of three shots with it at game, and killed a deer and two wild turkeys. Naturally the little rifle has had its share of misses since that first day, but the misses have been my fault, not the rifle's.

Its total bag has been small because of my preference for the greater power of the .30-'06 for large animals. As nearly as I can remember it has killed one Spanish chamois (izard) three deer, one bobcat, one greater bustard, twelve turkeys, and fourteen geese. I killed several head of game in Austria with the Mannlicher, but these must be credited to borrowed rifles, not to my own. It is still my pride and joy, and my choice for medium game and large birds. It had two turkeys and one bobcat to its credit last year in the Everglades.

In 1925, I discovered the forgotten Springfield stored away in my home in Tennessee. An examination showed the barrel to be in pretty fair condition, so I had it restocked as a sporter, and a Lyman aperture sight installed on it. In 1926, I headed a special mission to Ethiopia and I took the Springfield with me. Knowing that I might get a chance at some really big stuff in Africa, I bought in London on the trip out a secondhand, double-barrel .470 rifle. It cost me about one hundred and fifty dollars; eleven years later when I left Africa I sold it for one hundred.

This young cannon weighed nearly twelve pounds, yet even so it had such a considerable kick that I nicknamed it The Government Mule. During the eleven years that I owned it, I fired it a total of ten times at game, killing two rhinos, one hippo, one buffalo, and one lion. Rhino number one raided our camp in the Sebungwe District of Southern Rhodesia one night. It was hit once by the .470 and twice by the 9.3 mm. Mauser of my white hunter that night, but when we followed it up the next morning it had enough strength to charge and was finished by a shot in the neck with the .470. Rhino number two was killed by three shots with the .470, the last being a finishing shot in the neck after it was down. The hippo was killed with one brain shot and the buffalo with one shot which hit it at the point of the shoulder and ranged diagonally through its body.

The lion was a magnificent, black-maned male which I wounded with a lighter rifle. When we followed up the blood spoor, my shooting companion and the native tracker followed the spoor, with me twenty feet to one side. When the lion jumped up to charge, I got it through the lungs with the first shot, missed it with the second as it scrambled into some thick stuff, and broke its back to put it out of its misery with the third.

For some reason I never had any luck with the Springfield, and in 1927 I replaced it with a Winchester Model 54 for the same cartridge, and I had Bock, of Berlin, install a 4-power

Girard scope sight on it. About four years later I got a Remington Model 30S, and had the Girard sight changed to it. I still use the Remington for my Canadian moose and bear hunting.

In 1925 I picked up at a real bargain in Berlin, a Bock double-barrel rifle, shooting the British .400-.360 cartridge, with a Zeiss one-to-four power scope sight. This was the most beautiful rifle I have owned and had by far the best telescope sight I've ever used, but unfortunately the cartridge was poor ballistically and almost obsolete. It fired a blunt-nosed, 300-grain bullet at around 1,900 foot-seconds muzzle velocity, and developed around 2,500 foot-pounds muzzle energy. It was not very accurate at much over 100 yards, but the big flat-point bullet had lots of stopping power on thin-skinned animals at close range.

Of African game, Totten has killed zebra, crocodiles, buffalo, elands, rhino, and hippo. Seventy head of his all-time bag were taken with the .30-'06

Because it was a lovely weapon and had such a splendid sight, I used it occasionally in Africa with quite good success, but in competition with the .30-'06 and the Mannlicher it just didn't have a real place in my armory. I lent it to a friend for a while who claimed that it did excellent work, and I sold it when I left Africa for more than its original cost.

I have a 7 mm. Mauser rifle shooting the rimmed cartridge which is both accurate and efficient, but this again has to compete with the .30-'06 and the Mannlicher. As it has iron sights only, while both of the others have scopes, I have never fired it at game.

So my all-time rifle list is about as follows:

.22 short, single shot.
.22 long, heavy barrel.
.22 Winchester automatic.
*.22 Remington, bolt, scope.
*6.5 mm. Mannlicher, scope sight.
*7 mm. Mauser.
.30 Krag.
.30-'06 Springfield.
.30-'06 Winchester.
*.30-'06 Remington scope sight.
.400-.360 Bock double.
.401 Winchester automatic.
.470 double barrel.

* Still have.

With these rifles I have killed from eighty-five to 100 head of medium and big game, roughly aggregating around 50,000 pounds in weight. If this estimate of weight seems exaggerated, it must be remembered that there are included two rhinos and one hippo, which would run to some 16,000 pounds, and three elands, four moose, and one buffalo, which would come to at least 10,000 pounds.

I have fired quite a number of shots at crocodiles, many of which were center hits with the reptile almost certainly dying later, but I have counted only known kills. My estimate does not include two jaguars, two pumas, deer, wild pigs, and roe deer killed with the shotgun; nor twelve wild turkeys, fourteen geese, and one greater bustard, killed with the rifle, but not classed as big game.

The worst record I have ever made in a day's shooting occurred in Africa. I made a fast, half running, stooping approach on a great bull eland, and fired before I was steady, with the result that the animal was badly wounded, but able to make off. Another raking shot slowed it still more, but it was still able to travel faster than I could. There followed long, hot hours of pursuit before I was able to finally finish him off. I fired a total of seven shots at that poor brute, six of which were hits, which not only shows how terribly important a good, carefully aimed first shot is, but how after a bad first shot the bullets seem to lose their shocking power, and the game has literally to be shot to pieces to finally bring it down.

I have checked my records and flogged my memory trying to remember the clean misses, the badly placed shots needing others to finish, and the shots needed to put wounded game out of his misery. I can't seem to get a grand total of over 200 cartridges fired at big game on twelve organized hunts and many one- or two-day trips over a period of forty-odd years. It seems like an unbelievably small number of shots for a lifetime of big game hunting, but there it is.

It sounds absurd to argue that if I had owned but one rifle since 1908, say one using the .30-'06 cartridge, and if I'd been given at that time only 200 cartridges to last me all my life (plus unlimited ammunition for practice, target shooting, and getting to know my rifle thoroughly), I could have had almost all of the wonderful hunting experiences I have had, and could have had nearly as good a total bag.

All these 'ifs' are pretty silly and meaningless, but nevertheless there's an important moral in it. For the average American hunter having only one trip each year or, as is the case with many of us, one trip every two years, a single, accurate, powerful rifle is all he will ever need for any American game, or even for most African or Asian game. But considering the relatively few shots he will get at big game per trip, or per lifetime, it behooves him to know his rifle thoroughly; to be able to call his shots; and to hit his few targets in vital spots.

Unless you are one of the favored few who live in big-game country, with year-round opportunity, you are going to get a pitifully small number of shots in your entire life, so for the love of Mike put in all the time you can on the rifle range, at pest hunting, and in dry shooting, and learn to know exactly what you are doing during those rare moments when the chance at big game does come!

◆ ◆ ◆

One of the first hunting rifles Totten owned was a 6.5 Mannlicher-Schoenauer he obtained in Austria though he did not use it much on large game

HOLD A WIDE SEVEN

BY COLONEL W. A. TEWES . . . ANOTHER NOSTALGIC CHAPTER IN THE MEMOIRS OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST FAMOUS RIFLE TEAM COACHES

THE TIME IS EARLY September, 1905. The locale: the rifle range at Sea Girt. The particular spot, the 600-yard firing line. The Interstate Regimental Team Championship is being contested. The trophy emblematic of this title is a large silver salver, engraved with the regimental designations of previous winners, the year, and score. It is an old trophy that has been in competition for many years, starting back in the days of the .45 Springfield. We are now shooting the .30-40 Krag. A number of crackajack regimental teams have won the trophy twice; three wins are needed, not necessarily consecutive, for permanent ownership. It is not an easy trophy to win for keeps. Termination of enlistments and various other difficulties make it hard to hold a team together for several years. After I had coached the fourth New Jersey team to a win in 1902, several of us transferred our allegiance to the first New Jersey to work out a little vendetta against the fourth. The first already had two legs on the trophy, so this morning, for the fourth consecutive year, I'm coaching the winning team.

The autumnal equinox is approaching and the air is full of movement, flux and reflux, as is often the case at this season of the year, but the stuff shown by the heat waves as they panoram across the line of vision is easily read. The hand on the wind clock fluctuates between two and three. The wind is southeasterly, its average maximum speed ten miles.

The pair now on the firing line for the first New Jersey are Lt. H. L. Smith, on the right; Major Arthur Rowland, team captain, on the left; me, the coach, in between. Rowland has just scored a bull with one and a half points right windage and a five o'clock english in his final aim. Now it is Smith's turn to shoot.

Coach: "You've got a point 'n' a half right wind on. Take it off!"

Smith: "My last shot was a bull, remember."

Rowland: "Oh, shut up and do as you're told!"

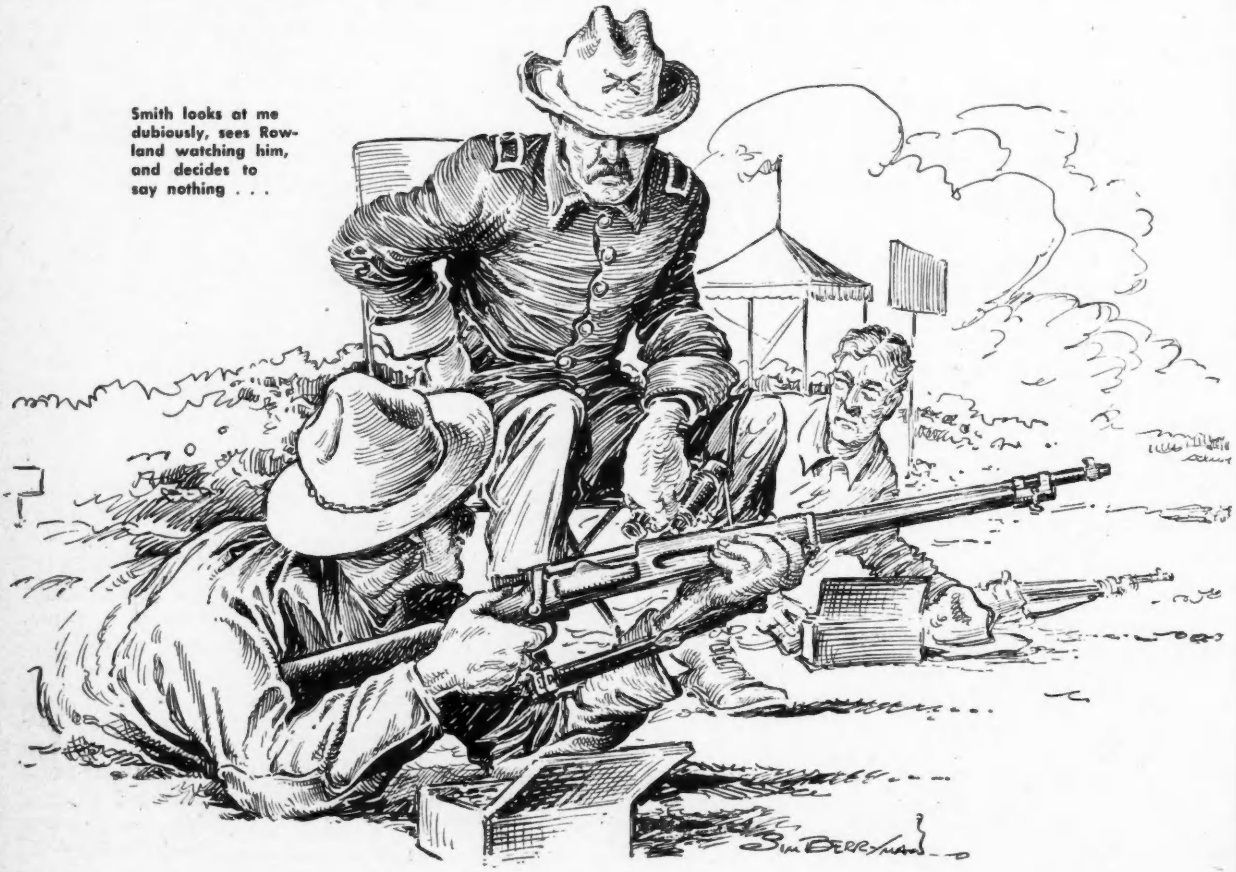
Smith: "Okay, he's the doctor."

Coach: "Put on a point 'n' a half left! And get going, we're up against a time limit!"

Smith looks at me dubiously, sees Rowland watching him, decides to say nothing, corrects his sight, and aims.

Coach: "Hold her seven o'clock! Hold a wide seven!"

Smith fires and the target goes down.



Smith looks at me dubiously, sees Rowland watching him, and decides to say nothing . . .

Coach: "Didja?"

Smith: "Yep, straight down from the eight o'clock edge."

Coach: "Okay!"

Target comes up with the bullseye spotter plumb center.

Smith, looking at me open-mouthed: "Fer cripes sake, are you human?"

Checking the other score boards after finishing the 600, we found that we were apparently the winners. Our boys were jubilant and headed for the club house, while I went up the line to retrieve my spotting scope. On the way back I saw to my surprise that there was a second relay on the line. The relay consisted of only one team, but in that team were three individuals who had been pointed out to me earlier in the week by Colonel Libbey, of General Spencer's staff, as involved in some sort of trickery. They had seen Libbey pointing them out to me and thereafter I noticed that they reacted uneasily in my presence. I decided that it might be a pious idea to keep an eye on these birds, since their organization, too, had two legs on the trophy. It was now 11:30 a.m. and it would take most of the noon hour to finish the stage. So, instead of joining my teammates for lunch, I ensconced myself in an easy chair on the club veranda so the team and their target were in full view. They looked down my way occasionally; they knew I was there and why I was there. I was relieved to see that the range officer was a hard-boiled captain and that nothing was likely to get by him.

During the next hour air conditions became more baffling as the fore-quartering winds worked around to become rear-quartering winds, the prevailing wind being mostly from four o'clock and the occasional countering wind mostly from seven-thirty to eight o'clock. With these land breezes, as the sun approached the meridian, the mirage was building up to a high intensity. This medley of conditions, which was giving the second relay lots of trouble and raising hob with their elevations, was bound to make it interesting in the Wimbledon which was scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

When the second relay team finished, I checked its score and then went over to the tent to get ready for the Wimbledon. While dry-scouring the bore of my Krag and inspecting it for possible signs of nickel fouling, Rowland and Smith came in. Said Rowland, "We missed you at lunch." He was surprised to learn about the second relay. Then he said, "After that coaching stunt this morning, you stand a good chance of winning this thing this afternoon." I thanked him and admitted I would probably win. "Oh, you will, eh? Don't forget," said he, "that I'm in there, too." When Smith butted in with his "Yeah, and I'm in there, too," we gave him the razzberry. Rowland told him that he didn't have brains enough to grease a gimlet. I told him he shot a rifle like the Irishman played the fiddle, not by note or ear, but by brute strength. Smith had irritated Rowland for a long time by his oft-repeated assertion that coaching was simply a matter of lucky guesswork. When he balked at changing his wind gauge from the right side to the left, as for the shot described above, it was a typical reaction. Yet the total correction for that shot, windage plus english, was ten feet, enough to land him on the next door target if he had been allowed to follow his own cockeyed notions. As for a coach being able to judge a variation of four or eight inches in lateral deflection and prescribe the necessary english before the shot was fired, as happened throughout much of the 600-yard stage this morning, well, according to his notion, no coach could possibly be that good. So, Rowland's parting shot was, "You'll be on your own this afternoon, with no coach to bother you, so let's see how good a guesser you are."

"Are brown eyes better for shooting?" she asked

After the ribbing session, we picked up our traps and headed for the 1,000-yard line.

A word about englishing the aim. This is an imperative technique in outdoor competitions in rapidly changing cross-winds, such as we had that morning. The silhouette of the Krag front sight is a flat-top post. With a six o'clock hold, the six o'clock edge of the bull touches the center of the flat top and we have a symmetrical aiming image. With a seven o'clock hold, the vertical center of the post is under the seven o'clock edge of the bull. With a wide seven hold, the post is under the eight o'clock edge of the bull. In both instances the top of the front sight remains level with the six o'clock or bottom edge of the bull.

The purpose of englishing the aim is to save time, to keep the shots in the bull, and to meet the wind conditions of the moment. The time limit is one of the rules of competition; we can't waste time in making minor corrections on the wind gauge. A seven o'clock hold is equal to four inches lateral correction on the 600-yard bull, one-ninth of a point on the wind gauge of the Model 1901 sight. Few men can judge that closely, therefore, the english is more accurate. Having fired hundreds of groups with the Krag at 600 yards from a machine rest and from the shoulder, my observation has been that the best of ammunition, in a good barrel, will put most of the shots in a ten-inch circle. Occasional stray shots might be ascribed to variations in the ammunition or a barrel condition caused by metal fouling. We were then using bullets with cupro-nickel jackets, with a tendency to foul at the rough spots in the barrel. The responsibility of the coach is to keep the group within the bullseye if possible. Any shot within a five-inch radius of the center of the bull is a perfect shot, leaving a margin of five inches between the edge of the shot group and the edge of the bull. If the wind moves the group across that margin, the team loses points. A plumb center shot, like the one described above, is a fortuitous happenstance, regardless of the thrill it gives the shooter and his willingness to believe that it represents the last scintilla of accuracy, attained through the perfect co-ordination of all the factors involved—the gun, the ammunition, and the man.

When we assembled on the firing line that afternoon, we found that eight competitors were assigned to a target—the number of competitors divided by the number of targets was eight. When we all lay down we were packed like sardines. It was impossible to shoot without interference. I said, "The hell with this. Let's set up three spotting scopes and three of us lie down at a time, giving each one plenty of room." Agreed.

I could see the flags flying in all directions

As the match proceeded we had a display of the poorest marksmanship ever staged by an aggregation of the country's top-notchers. They were all here, for in addition to the annual programs of the National Rifle Association and New Jersey State Rifle Association, the third National Matches were included in this year's schedule. The same baffling winds of the morning were now complicated by mirage, that phenomenon which shows the target where it isn't. The flags were flying in all directions. They were much too high to be worth a hoot as signs of what was going on in the plane of fire, but they beguiled many a poor sucker into shifting his wind gauge and scoring a miss. If the truth be known, there were quite as many vertical misses due to mirage as there were lateral misses. With the fifteenth shot I started a run of bullseyes, but I got a four in there somewhere winding up with a total of 84, or four measly points over 'centers.' The second high was a 79 by Casey, one point below centers. It was probably the lowest scoring ever recorded for the classic Wimbledon Cup. The top score was the only one without a two or a miss in it.

The gallery gathering back of our squad indicated the winning score was in the making here. When I got up after the last shot, they surged forward with congratulations. On the fringe of the group I noticed a lithe, willowy filly with subtle, sinuous fore-and-aft curves, and raven tresses. When the hand-shakers dispersed she came forward, hand extended, with "Congratulations, Lieutenant." Her grip telegraphed things! "My girl friend and I differ about the color of your eyes. I claim they are black." I confessed to sundry shiners in the past, but normally my orbs are brown. Hers were deep violet blue. "Are brown eyes better for shooting?" she asked. I opined that brown eyes were good on bullseye targets, but violet blue were deadly on man targets.

"I get it. Thank you." As they tripped away I thought if I were young, single, good-looking, and rich—boy, she was lovely! While gazing after her, Rowland yanked my arm, saying "Let's get a drink." Back to earth again!

After dinner we sat on the porch enjoying the cool of the sea breeze. I knew this was to be the usual 'post-mortem,' as Rowland called it. He dearly loved to rehearse the incidents of the day and listen to my elucidation of the day's problems.

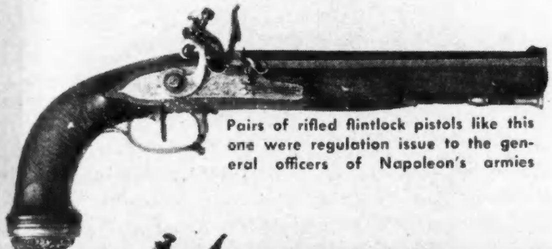
Said he, "I noticed you were calling for left windage this morning while the stuff was still coming in from the right. How come?" I asked him to step up to the firing point we shot from this morning where I might be able to clarify the answer. Our firing point was near the left flank, that is, the north end of the firing line. Leading him past the end of the line, I pointed out a patch of tall weeds, beach grasses, and bayberry, about seventy-five feet across and about forty yards forward of the line, but offside. They were on a patch of uneven ground, some three or four feet higher than the surrounding terrain. The horse-mower couldn't get to them and as the growth did not interfere with visibility of the targets from any part of the range, the patch was left undisturbed.

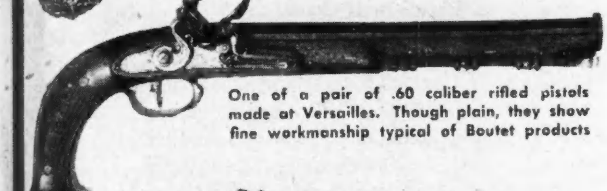
The first indication that a left wind had replaced the right wind was the susurration of wind through that patch of weeds, even while the heat waves were still flowing from the right. With a two o'clock wind the sand dunes, butts, and targets form a partial lee on the near side, in which the wind as indicated by the heat waves will continue to run for several seconds after the ten o'clock wind has set in. Not until the left wind becomes dominant, and overspreads the area between the firing point and the targets, do the heat waves appear to reverse their direction. One does not always see heat waves for the first 100 or 200 yards except in unusual conditions. It takes a considerable depth of fore- and middle-ground to make heat waves plainly visible. The conditions described are observable only when the winds are forward of the beam and at midranges. At long range the intervening heat waves will mask those in the farther distance, even though the latter have a contrary direction.

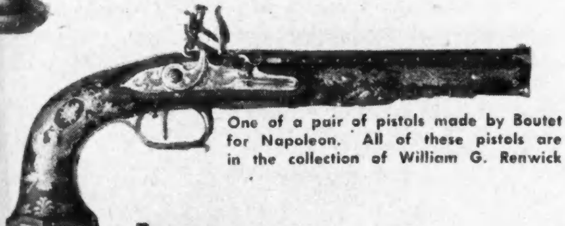
After we got back to the porch, Rowland wanted to talk about the Wimbledon. He confessed to adopting a sly little tell-tale to keep him posted on speed and direction of wind—the exhaust steam from the laundry in the quartermaster's barn. That was only about 200 yards forward of the firing line, off-side, and wasn't much of a guide to what was happening farther out. When the laundry shut down at 4:00 p.m. his wind-vane-anemometer went out of business. Poor li'l' Arthur! When he wanted to know my dope on the afternoon's shooting, I gave him the following summary: The most important factor affecting the results was the effect of the mirage on elevations. The "C" target is ten feet wide but only six feet high, therefore, vertical errors are more heavily penalized. The effect of mirage on the aimed shot depends on the conformation of the terrain and the relative positions of the shooter, the mirage, and the target. At Sea Girt the conformation of the target range may be described as a shallow basin; the raised perimeter being the butts atop the sand dunes out front, the buildings bordering the road on the right, more buildings and the railroad embankment to the rear, and the trees bordering the road on the left. Such a setting, including a clear sky and the sun in the top sector of about 120 degrees, is favorable to the formation of mirage. The pool of mirage is below the line of vision and the optical effect is to place the reflected image

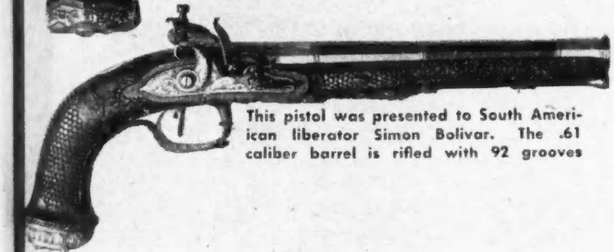
(Continued on page 39)

AFTER MORE THAN A CENTURY THE FIREARMS OF NICHOLAS NOËL BOUTET, WHO WAS GUNMAKER TO THE RULERS OF FRANCE, ARE STILL UNEQUALLED


Pairs of rifled flintlock pistols like this one were regulation issue to the general officers of Napoleon's armies


One of a pair of .60 caliber rifled pistols made at Versailles. Though plain, they show fine workmanship typical of Boutet products


One of a pair of pistols made by Boutet for Napoleon. All of these pistols are in the collection of William G. Renwick

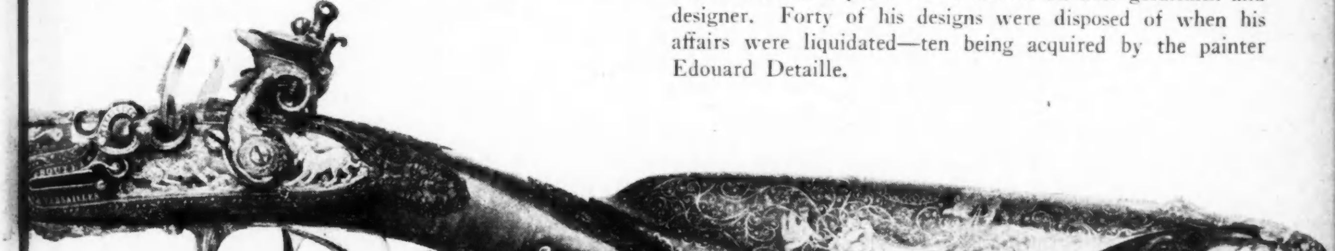

This pistol was presented to South American liberator Simon Bolivar. The .61 caliber barrel is rifled with 92 grooves

The early years of the nineteenth century marked a new era in the history of firearms. Methods which led to mass production were developed, and the art of the gunsmith became industrialized. In France, the abolition of the traditional guilds occurred during the reign of Louis XVI. The consequent lapse of the apprentice system stopped the supply of skilled craftsmen working along traditional, slowly-developing lines. After the French Revolution, the old manufactories did not suffice for the making of a thousand guns daily, the required number. At Paris and Versailles, the administrators requisitioned ancient arms, established repair shops, forged pikes, bayonets, and gun barrels. Then, in 1792, they established a factory in the Grand Commun of the royal palace at Versailles and appointed as its director a hereditary gunmaker, the citizen Boutet.

For more than a quarter of a century, Nicolas Noël Boutet worked for the rulers of France under the monarchy, the republic, the empire, and again for the king and princes. Boutet, who lived from 1761 to 1833, inherited from his father-in-law, Desainte, the title of *arquebusier du Roi.* His father, Noël Boutet, was *arquebusier des chevau-legers du Roi.*

A decree of 1793 authorized Boutet to recruit expert gunsmiths from Liége and to requisition the necessary equipment for manufacturing firearms. It continued the work of Louis XIV and of Colbert by adding to the State Manufactory a separate atelier (workshop) for *armes de luxe*, either for war or for the chase. It was the exquisite taste exhibited by Boutet in his designs and in his sculptural work that attracted the attention of Napoleon, who granted him an eighteen-year concession (1800-1818) at Versailles. Under its terms the *Manufacture de Versailles* was destined not only to make regulation firearms and swords but also to train artists to preserve the great traditions of French gunmaking.

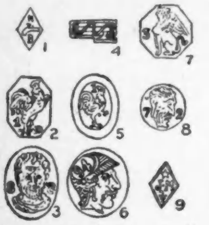
The firearms which came from Boutet's workshop vary in quality from regulation weapons to effectively designed and skillfully executed presentation pieces. Boutet was a gunmaker without a peer. He was also an able goldsmith and designer. Forty of his designs were disposed of when his affairs were liquidated—ten being acquired by the painter Edouard Detaille.



By STEPHEN V. GRANCSAY

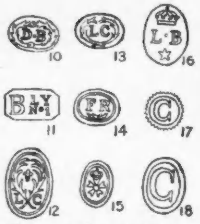
Curator of Armor and Arms, Metropolitan Museum of Art, N. Y.

NAPOLEON'S GUNMAKER



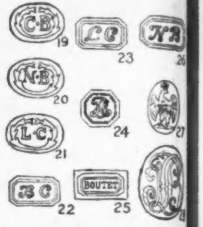
These marks appear on silver mounts of Boutet arms

Boutet's signature as it appears on the lock of the fowling piece shown below



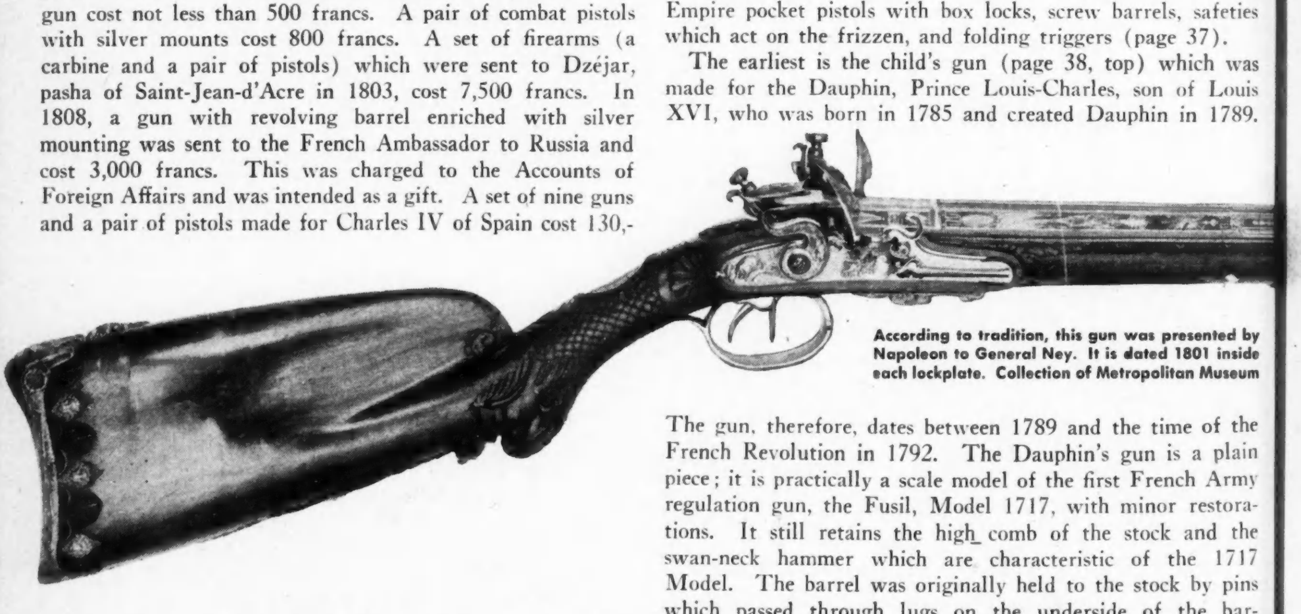
These marks appear on undersides of barrels

Medusa head on butts of general's pistols



These marks appear at th breech end of the barr

The work of Boutet was considerable. One finds it in public collections, in the Musée de l'Armée and Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, at Windsor Castle, in the Wallace Collection in London, in Leningrad and Moscow, in the families that have preserved the testimony of the national recognition given to their ancestors who distinguished themselves on the field of battle, and in private collections, a number of them in America. The total number of regulation firearms made under his direction for the army during eighteen years was 145,659. Of his custom-built firearms, the simplest gun cost not less than 500 francs. A pair of combat pistols with silver mounts cost 800 francs. A set of firearms (a carbine and a pair of pistols) which were sent to Dzéjar, pasha of Saint-Jean-d'Acre in 1803, cost 7,500 francs. In 1808, a gun with revolving barrel enriched with silver mounting was sent to the French Ambassador to Russia and cost 3,000 francs. This was charged to the Accounts of Foreign Affairs and was intended as a gift. A set of nine guns and a pair of pistols made for Charles IV of Spain cost 130,000 francs. In those days a firearm was esteemed as a jewel, hence it was ornamented. But the fabrication of luxury arms was not a source of profit to Boutet. His accounts of November 1, 1798, indicate a deficit of over 6,500 francs for the year. He was often in financial difficulty.

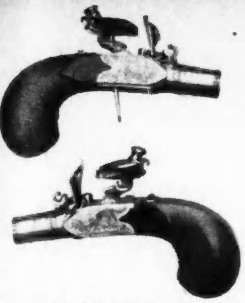


According to tradition, this gun was presented by Napoleon to General Ney. It is dated 1801 inside each lockplate. Collection of Metropolitan Museum

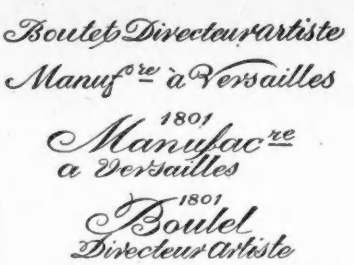
The flintlock firearms described in this article show a variety of types. All were custom-built pieces made by and under the direction of Boutet, and all are exhibited in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, four of them being in the Museum's permanent collection, the others having been generously lent to the Museum by William G. Renwick of Weston, Massachusetts. The group includes a child's fowling piece, rifled carbines of both the cavalry and infantry types, and a hunting rifle (page 38), these being full-stocked guns. There are two double-barreled, side by side, half-stocked and richly mounted presentation fowling pieces, the earliest dated 1801 (above) and the other (page 35 and cover) dating about 1820 with exchange percussion locks and barrels which are of later date (after 1830, when Boutet stopped working) than the original flintlock, and by another gunsmith. Five pairs of pistols, four of them rifled, are described. They comprise pistols bearing the imperial crown and eagle and the grand cross of the Legion of Honor of the Emperor Napoleon I which came from the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad; pistols made for Simon Bolivar, the liberator of South America; Medusa-head butted pistols which were the regulation model for general officers; a pair of pistols with less ornamental mountings (illustrated on page 35); and a fine pair of Empire pocket pistols with box locks, screw barrels, safeties which act on the frizzen, and folding triggers (page 37).

The earliest is the child's gun (page 38, top) which was made for the Dauphin, Prince Louis-Charles, son of Louis XVI, who was born in 1785 and created Dauphin in 1789. The gun, therefore, dates between 1789 and the time of the French Revolution in 1792. The Dauphin's gun is a plain piece; it is practically a scale model of the first French Army regulation gun, the Fusil, Model 1717, with minor restorations. It still retains the high comb of the stock and the swan-neck hammer which are characteristic of the 1717 Model. The barrel was originally held to the stock by pins which passed through lugs on the underside of the barrel. The barrel was at one time bent and has been repaired by brazing; the stock, too, has been broken and repaired. It is probable that the damage was deliberately done at the time of the Revolution, for the inscriptions on the lock and barrel indicate that the gun is a royal piece. When it was later repaired, the barrel lugs were removed and capucines and springs replaced the pins; these are of the type used in the French Army musketoon, Model 1763—a smoothbore known as the Charleville musket—which was one of the principal arms used by the Americans in the Revolutionary War. The repairs are old, but they were apparently made after Boutet's time, for Boutet would have restored it to its original condition. Aside from its historical associations and the fact that it is a rare early child's gun, the piece is of especial value as an early example of Boutet's work.

The first standardized rifled firearm used in the French Army was the Carbine of Versailles, Model 1793. (In 1794, the workshop at Versailles was named *Manufacture de Car-*



Pocket pistols by Boutet. Barrels unscrew for loading at the breech



Boutet Directeur Artiste
Manuf^{re} à Versailles
1801
Manufac^{re}
à Versailles
1801
Boutet
Directeur Artiste

Boutet's signature as it appears on barrels (above) and inside locks of gun shown below

abines.) The rifling of this arm had seven grooves which made a complete turn in the length of the barrel. To load the weapon, after having inserted the powder charge, the spherical ball was rammed home with a mallet, the ball being enveloped in a patch of greased leather. The French felt that this method of loading was difficult, time consuming and dangerous, and necessitated discarding the bayonet. Although the *Manufacture* made two models of carbine, one for the infantry, the other for cavalry, they were abandoned in 1805. It was not until 1814 that the French Army officially recognized the superiority of the rifled carbine over the smoothbore *fusil.* And it was not until 1826 that the Delvigne rifled carbine improved the method of loading. In the meantime, Boutet was making custom-built carbines (page 38, second and fourth from top), three of which are exhibited in the Metropolitan Museum. All have polygrooved rifling, which terminates in a series of 'teeth' at the muzzle, resembling a circular saw. They also have sliding bead sights for adjustment for windage, and one of them has four leaf sights at the breech, also a screw for adjusting the trigger tension. All of our carbines (as well as two fowling pieces and two pairs of pistols) have a small roller bearing at the point where the pan cover spring presses upon the pan cover, which reduced friction at this point—a feature which was in general use from 1790.

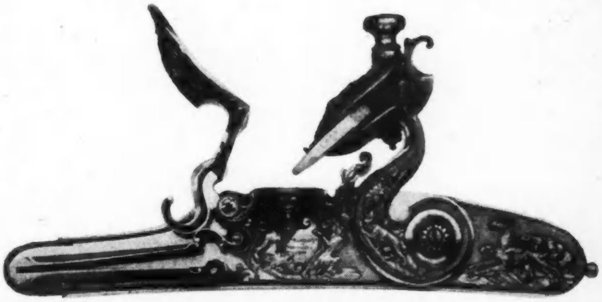
These carbines 'of ordinary luxury' have thirty-three grooves; one learns from a contemporary account that one must file 2,510 times to make each groove; two men make three grooves a day. The superior carbines have 133 grooves; two men make one groove in three or four days. Rotary milling cutters were still far away!

One of the earliest presentation pieces made under Boutet's contract (1800-1818) is a double-barreled flintlock fowling piece in the Metropolitan Museum of Art (page 36). It is signed by Boutet and dated 1801. Traditionally it is said to have been presented by Bonaparte to General Ney (1769-1815) who became a marshal of the Empire in 1804 and Duke of Elchingen in 1805. It is one of the best Napoleonic presentation guns in existence because of its effective design, its splendid execution, and its immaculate condition. The walnut stock, gracefully formed, has the grip delicately carved with a dolphin's head and with scales to simulate the body. The chasing of the gold and silver mountings and of the steel locks is of superlative quality, and it retains its original sharpness and brilliancy. The gold and silver ornaments were cast, the details being finished with punches; their ground is granulated and gilded. The sculpturing of the locks, which because of functional requirements were made of good steel, represents a more difficult technique. The elements of the locks were wrought, not cast, and, therefore, the artist had to chisel the entire ornament by deft hammer strokes on the chasing tools. Such work in steel was the mark of a fine artist.

Unlike the fowling piece just described, not many of Boutet's firearms bear a date, but his inscriptions, which vary, are an aid in assigning dates. The following variations in the inscriptions, in the order in which they were used, appear on the pieces described herein. On the child's flintlock gun: *Boutet Arquebusier Ord^{re} du Roy et de M^{gr} Le Dauphin, Versailles.* On the three carbines, a pair of rifled pistols and on the fowling piece dated 1801: *Boutet Directeur Artiste Manufacture à Versailles* (page 37). On the pair of pocket pistols: *Manuf^{re} Imperiale Boutet et Fils A Versailles.* Two pairs of rifled pistols, including the pistols of Emperor Napoleon I: *Boutet & Fils à Versailles.* (Boutet's son, Nicolas Pierre, who was associated with him, died in 1816). On Bolivar's pistols: *N N Boutet à Versailles, Manufacture royale à Versailles.* And on the late double-barreled fowling piece (cover): *Boutet à Versailles* and *Manufacture de Versailles.* On this same double-barreled fowling piece, and on the Bolivar pistols, Boutet's inscriptions in capital letters appear on the beveled edge of the locks.

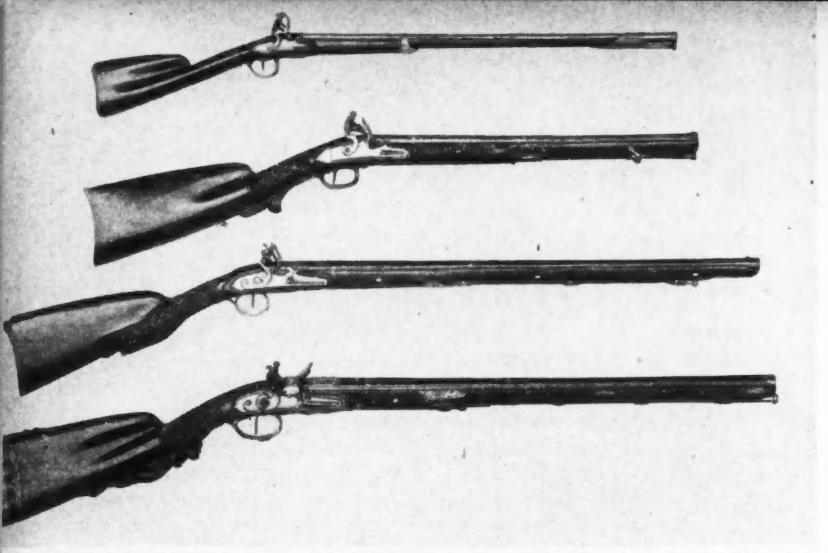
Boutet's firearms with mountings of precious metal are stamped with his goldsmith's mark (1)—a pistol with the initials NB. On the silver mountings of the fowling piece shown on page 36 is an unidentified mark (9) of one of Boutet's silversmith collaborators. A number of marks appear on the silver mountings of Boutet firearms. These include the maker's mark, the standard mark, and the excise mark. The standard and excise marks which appear on his firearms were in use either from June 19, 1798, until August 31, 1809 (2, 3), from September 1, 1809, to August 15, 1819 (4, 5, 6), or from August 16, 1819, to May 9, 1838 (7, 8), hence identifying the mark aids in assigning a date to the piece. At the beginning of his enterprise in 1792, Boutet saved from ruin many goldsmiths, for during the Revolution work in the precious metals, being associated with the aristocracy, was destroyed, not created.

The marks on the barrels also vary. They are the marks of the different proofs (provisional proof, mark of acceptance, mark of guaranty) and those of definite reception which consist of the name Boutet (25) and the superimposed letters NB in script (24).



Close-up view of left lock of the Boutet fowling piece shown on the opposite page. No reproduction can do justice to the wealth of detail and fine handwork of its outer surfaces. Mechanically, the lock is a simple flintlock, without unusual features. The gun has never been fired

In the late eighteenth century the barrelmakers of Paris belonged to the gunsmiths' guild and there were only four masters. Magné de Marolles, who published his work *La Chasse au Fusil* in Paris in 1788, tells us that there were



At top is a child's gun made by Boutet for Prince Louis Charles, son of Louis XVI. It is practically a scale model of the French model 1717 military musket. Below it is a custom-made cavalry carbine, model 1793, and a hunting rifle. At the bottom (not to scale) is one of Boutet's custom-made infantry carbines. Collections of W. G. Renwick and Metropolitan Museum

never more than four master barrelmakers in Paris and that they took care of the demands of that city and of the provinces. The four barrelmakers of his day were Nicolas Le Clerc, *cannonier du Roi brévété,* Des Champs, Jean-François Renet and Henri Renet. The initials LC appear in the Le Clerc marks and the same initials appear as proof marks on many Boutet pieces (12, 13, 21, 23), in which case they may be the initials of a member of the Le Clerc family. Of considerable importance is the fact that the barrels of our general officer's pistols were made by Nicolas Le Clerc whose mark (12) is stamped on the underside of the barrels. Nicolas Le Clerc was the only breveted barrelmaker in Paris who, by virtue of his brevet received in 1773, included the fleur-de-lys in his mark. The Le Clerc family were well known in Paris and throughout the kingdom by Jean Le Clerc and Henri Le Clerc, his uncles, both royal barrelsmiths, and by Jean-Baptiste Le Clerc, his brother, also royal barrelsmith who died in 1781.

The first law concerning the proving of firearms which has been recorded is the *Arrêt du Conseil du Roi* of January 17, 1782. Previously, however, it had been the practice of every barrelmaker of repute to have his barrels proved. Barrels which have withstood an extraordinary proof have a double proof mark. Several of the Boutet pieces described herein have the barrelsmith's mark or name stamped on the underside of the barrel. One of the rifled carbines has stamped on the underside of the barrel the mark B $^{\text{LY}}_{\text{No. 1}}$ (11), and nearby lightly scratched is *Pour Brouilly*. There is apparently a connection between the mark and the name. It may refer to the barrelsmith. It also bears the mark DB encircled in a wreath (10). This latter mark appears on the underside of the barrel of several other pieces, namely, the rifled carbine, Model 1793 and the hunting carbine (page 38, second and third from top), a pair of rifled pistols, and the fowling piece (page 36). The fowling piece also has on the underside of the barrels the inscriptions in script *Manu Vlles* and *Boutet Director Artiste Manuf*^{re} *à Versailles.* All of these pieces also have the same series of proof marks (22, 23, 24, 25).

There are other combinations of proof marks. On the pair of rifled pistols of Napoleon are mark 24 twice, between them an eagle in an oval, mark 27, and below each of these mark 25. On the general officer's pistols, mark 24 three times. On the Bolivar pistols mark 25 appears three times. On the cavalry carbine, marks 19, 20, and 21. On the late fowling piece (cover and page 35), mark 28 on each flintlock barrel.

This late fowling piece has on the underside of one percussion barrel: *Leopold Bernard,* and marks 15-18. On the underside of the second percussion barrel: *Cannonier a Paris* and the same marks. Between the barrels are the numbers 7-1860.

The name Bernard is of especial interest for it was Nicolas Bernard, the barrelmaker at Versailles, who made the first trials and who in 1804 obtained the first practical results in making damascus barrels. After Napoleon's expedition to Egypt, the swords and firearms brought back acquired such a great reputation that attempts were made to reproduce the "watered" steel.

For the construction of superior barrels, a bundle of horseshoe nails was welded into a flat bar. Similar bars of scrap steel were made. Thirty-two alternate bars were welded together. The bundle of steel and iron plates was then twisted at the forge to such an extent that the threads resembled a very fine screw, eighteen turns to the inch. Six of these rods were rolled together to make a riband and when the surface was colored the difference in the texture of the two metals became distinctly visible. Experiments showed that these barrels were much stronger than those made of ribands of iron.

After the liquidation of the Manufacture of Versailles, Le Page brought Nicolas Bernard to Paris to make barrels for him. They parted in 1821 and Nicolas Bernard established his own workshop in 1823; his two sons Albert and Leopold were his principal collaborators. The latter succeeded him and, in 1849, he specialized in damascus barrels which bear his name and which were famous.

Boutet's fortunes rose and fell with those of his patrons, and often instead of being reimbursed with money he was paid only with fame. The fall of the empire was a disaster for Boutet. The Prussians, entering Versailles on July 1, 1815, sacked the manufactory, and Blücher seized the material, the military arms, the arms of luxury, the designs and the models of the unfortunate director-artist. Thirty wagon-loads were taken to Berlin. It was the destruction of an industry in the development of which Boutet had played a leading role. Boutet survived the ruin of the Manufacture fifteen years and, reviving the title *arquebusier ordinaire du Roi et des Princes,* installed himself in the shop at 87 Rue de Richelieu.

The former Directeur-Artiste counted on the fame of the Manufactory to enable him to compete with the Parisian gunsmiths. He entered into competition with his former assistants, Manceaux, Le Page, Gosset, all of whom made names as gunsmiths, in continuing the traditions which they learned in the manufactory at Versailles. In fact, Le Page had long been Boutet's rival, for he was *Arquebusier de l'Empereur* and made Napoleon's shoulder arms, while Boutet made the Emperor's pistols under the Versailles contract. However, after 1820 the attention of the gunsmiths was focused on mechanical improvements rather than on ornamentation. The demand for arms of luxury was over.

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Hold a Wide Seven

(Continued from page 34)

of the target eight or ten feet below the position of the real target, therefore calling for a correction of that many minutes in increased elevation.

Mirage is most intense between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Its intensity may be judged by the appearance of the target. When the mirage is most intense, the target resembles a seething, bubbling mass, something like a Welsh rarebit in the making. The edges of the target, the lines of the three-square, the four-ring, and the edge of the bull are crinkly and ill-defined. Details like numerals and pasters are indistinguishable. As the sun declines, the layers of heated air in the pool of mirage become less expanded, refractivity diminishes, the light rays straighten out, and the reflected image of the target gradually moves up to and finally coincides with the actual target.

Ordinarily, in the presence of mirage, where men shoot in pairs and fire their shots at intervals of a minute and a half, they follow the trend of their shots and make their corrections to offset this trend. This afternoon, under the silly system of crowding eight men on a target, each man would fire a shot at twelve- or fifteen-minute intervals, or at the rate of four or five shots an hour; the twenty-two shots in the Wimbledon consuming about four and a half hours. If all the shots were hits, the round would be completed in twelve minutes; if there were misses and the marker had to look for the shots, it would take fifteen minutes. Poor shooting always slows down the marking. At this rate of fire and in the case of misses, the inexperienced shot is at a disadvantage. The corrections for each shot must be anticipated. To do this fairly accurately requires much experience or deductions based on at least a primitive understanding of elementary physics. The average rifleman doesn't want to be bothered with that.

After my tenth shot, about 3:00 p.m., I reduced my elevation one minute every other shot; the vertical responded. Starting with the fifteenth shot, my corrections were two minutes every other shot. Total correction for the entire score, ten minutes. Meanwhile, the mirage was fading. Through the heat waves, details of the target became more discernible. Finally, the air cleared—no more heat waves—and it was possible to count the pasters and see the wet smear on the last one. On many days, like this one, there is a general subsiding of air movement while the sun is sinking, before it finally sets. That is the pot-hunter's hour, when everything is still and high scores are possible if you know your elevation dope. During the last few shots I noticed some writing across the face of the bullseye spotter. I could distinguish two capital H's but not the smaller letters. On my way to the beach next morning for my daily dip, I stepped down to that end of the pit and picked up the spotter from the marker's bench. Across the face of it was written 'Happy Hooligan.'

The morning papers carried the AP dispatches of the day before on the Sea Girt matches. The correspondent was a Marine Corps captain, closely identified with the shooting game and a keen observer. His report on the Wimbledon read: "Lieut. Tewes handled the wind that fishtailed through six o'clock in masterly fashion. He has come rapidly to the front as a skilled exponent of long-range work. He is consistently strong at all ranges and is a fine coach. His victory was a popular one."

Disregarding the bouquets, the flaws in that account are contained in the phrase, "the wind that fishtailed through six o'clock." Wind should read winds, plural. For the winds were contrary, opposing winds, the right wind from four o'clock and the left from eight o'clock. They were remarkably steady for direction, with no noticeable veer or fishtail while they lasted. Rear winds are commonly described as six o'clock fishtails. Yet nearly all directional winds veer or fishtail to some extent, generally through a sector of about 30 degrees. At no time was I aware of a six-o'clock wind, for that would have complicated the elevation dope and made bolder corrections necessary.

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DCM Treasure

(Continued from page 24)

of your forefinger behind the stone opposite the surface being stoned, so that you won't rock the stone and round the flat surfaces or change their angles. Then go to work with your hard Arkansas stone and polish out all the marks left by the India stone. A magnifying glass will help you to see when it is perfectly smooth. Use plenty of light oil on your stones to keep them from clogging up. Wash all the grit off the parts with the same cleaning fluid you used on the metal parts, oil lightly and reassemble the bolt and trigger mechanism. Try the trigger pull and if you have a lot of creep in the final let-off, stone down bump (V) on the top of the trigger a little at a time until you finally get a good, crisp final trigger pull. If you stone off too much, you will have no final pull at all. You can then go back and correct this by stoning a little off the other bump (W). It will help the smoothness of the pull if you stone the spot on the receiver where the bumps ride.

Stone the surfaces of the cocking cams (X) and (Y). Stone the extractor cam (Z) and do your best with the point where it rides in the receiver, but this is a hard place to get to.

Remove the extractor (1) by pushing it around a quarter turn to the right so that the front end is out of its groove (2) in the bolt. Tap it forward with your wood block and it will snap off. Polish the outside surface with fine emery or alundum cloth. About No. 320 in the latter would be right for the final polish. Stone surfaces (3) and (4) where they ride against the bolt.

Polish the top of follower (5) with your abrasive cloth. Polish the bolt with the abrasive cloth. Strips of it about half an inch wide used like shoe-shine cloth will do a fine job. But, at your peril, keep away from the rear surfaces of the two locking lugs, one of which shows at (6). If you take even a few thousandths off these you may increase the headspace enough to make the rifle dangerous.

20. Take the side of your small knife-edge file and, at a small angle from the perpendicular, file across the face of the front sight just enough to give you a bright tip for hunting.

Deepen the notch in the rear sight with your knife-edge file to whatever contour you prefer. Then you can file off the top of the rear sight with your file until you get the elevation down enough for the particular ammunition that you want to use and for the ranges at which you expect to shoot.

21. Clean out all emery grit and other mess, oil very lightly, and assemble your sporter. Go very lightly on that oil. A rifle needs practically no oil or grease, just enough to keep the parts from binding or rusting.

Set her up on the bench and go across the room and have a look. Then pick her up and swing her to your shoulder. I think you will admit that you have a rifle you won't be ashamed of in any hunting field.

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WHEN NATIONAL PISTOL CHAMPION JOE BENNER IS IN THE GROOVE NOTHING STOPS THE FLOW OF 10'S SHORT OF A NEW NATIONAL RECORD

AUTOMATIC PISTOLMAN

By RAY STANN

BACK NEARLY A DOZEN years ago, a teen-aged Infantry private stood behind the Post Exchange at Fort Benning, Ga., and watched a big man at work. "Porky" Tumlin, a regular Army veteran, was a big man, both physically and in his particular field—which was pistol shooting. To young Huelet Benner there was the memory of a big parade and the presentation ceremony that followed. The "Old Man" had called Cpl. Tumlin from the ranks and presented him with an award symbolic of his selection as fifth-ranking pistol shooter nationally in the .45 caliber division of the National Rifle Association. Now Tumlin was out there, as he usually was in his spare time, practicing on the little shooting layout he had built. And Benner, as usual, was watching.

"Sure," the big man said one day in answer to the long-delayed question. "Try your hand at it, Benner. The Infantry team could use some new talent."

For a guy in his initial performance under target conditions, Benner's pistol performance that day was adequate since he simply adapted the mechanics developed from his plinking and .22 target rifle experience back in Arkansas and from his big-bore competitive rifle experience since joining the Army. At any rate it was good enough to provoke the interest of Tumlin, who knew wherefrom good timber grew. Today, looking back on those early associations with the redoubtable Tumlin, Benner's tone is almost reverent.

"Tumlin helped me a lot on that little range behind the PX, and when my enlistment was up in 1938, he talked me out of the rifle company and into tanks, which was then a branch of Infantry. We worked together from then on, as members of the Infantry team at Perry from 1938 to 1940, and as a two-man team in every match we could get to."

Thus James A. Tumlin, one of the "characters" of the firing line, goat-getter extraordinary, hard-fighting, savvy veteran of many a shooting tournament, pointed Benner toward the National Pistol Championship.

Huelet made it last summer at Camp Perry, as you know. He beat Harry Reeves after first disclosing his intention with a whopping triumph over the champion at the North Central Regional just a few weeks earlier. He rubbed it in last winter by lifting Harry's National Mid-Winter title at Tampa. And thereupon rose the question: Who is this guy Benner and how does he get away with whipping a hitherto unbeatable three-time national champion who was admittedly on top of his game?

We wanted to know too, asked, and found out. But before we give you the *new* national champion we would like to suggest that you note the comparisons between many of the facts surrounding Benner's rise to the top and those of his great predecessor, Reeves ("Case History: Harry Reeves," THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, Feb. 1947).

Huelet Leo (Everybody-Calls-Me-Joe) Benner, at 29, won the All-Around championship at the same age as did Harry. Now 30 and preparing for the first defense of his title, Joe presents much the same firing-line silhouette as Reeves—220 pounds on a five foot, nine inch frame. And, blessed with an enormous appetite, he doesn't plan to alter that much.

Benner always was interested in shooting. Born in Bethel, Arkansas, and raised near Jonesboro, in the middle of the peach country by the Mississippi River, the future champ played havoc with the rabbit crop of the community. Later, he began taking an interest in some of the informal .22 rifle matches in the area and sincerely believes that he could have been a top-notch smallbore competitor if he had stuck to that game. But at 17, after a year of roaming the country, Benner decided to let the Army pay for his travels and joined the Twenty-second Infantry at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Then, as you know, he moved to Benning and met Tumlin.

Joe's Army travels have been comparatively light. Except for three years of side trips as a firing member of the Infantry Pistol Team, he remained at Fort Benning until 1940, when he and Tumlin were moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky. There, as a tech sergeant, he has been ever since as an instructor in the Weapons Department, Armored School.

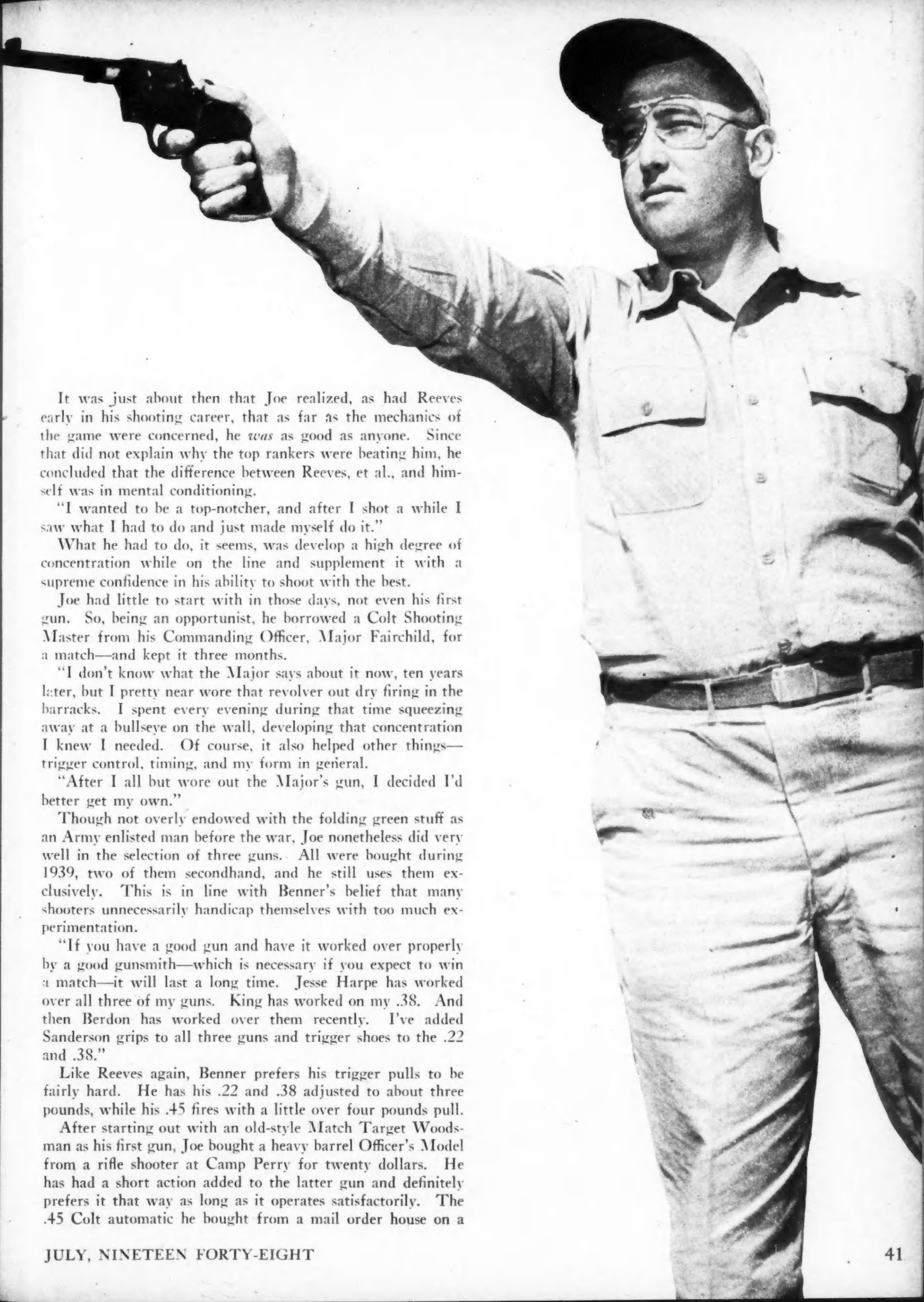
"We teach every weapon used by the Armored Force," Joe explains. "That includes everything from the pistol to the 105 mm. cannon—and recoilless weapons, too. I figure that with the experience I've had here at Knox, I can qualify as one of the best all-around shooters in the country.

"We teach classes of armorers how to use and teach ordnance. During the war I taught every Armored Force officer candidate who came through the school here. I never forget a face and I'll bet I know every one of them, although maybe not their names."

If, in talking to Joe, you are struck by the calm assurance he has in his ability to shoot better than anyone else, you need only analyze his early shooting days to realize that it has not always been so. Over an enormous breakfast of eggs, sausage, fried potatoes, and rolls, Benner was talking about Reeves—as he often does.

"The first time I ever saw Harry on the firing line was in 1938 at the South Atlantic Matches at Savannah, Georgia," Joe was saying. "Reeves teamed up with Al Hemming in a two-man team match and I remember the score as if it were yesterday—597 of a possible 600 points. Man, what shooting! I didn't think anyone would ever shoot a score that good again.

"Funny thing is that later in the day I shot a 198 and outranked both Reeves and Hemming to win the .22 caliber rapid-fire match. I thought then that I was on top of the world and just as good as anyone. There was nothing more to fight for. So I proceeded to botch up the rest of my shooting in all the following matches that day."



It was just about then that Joe realized, as had Reeves early in his shooting career, that as far as the mechanics of the game were concerned, he *was* as good as anyone. Since that did not explain why the top rankers were beating him, he concluded that the difference between Reeves, et al., and himself was in mental conditioning.

"I wanted to be a top-notcher, and after I shot a while I saw what I had to do and just made myself do it."

What he had to do, it seems, was develop a high degree of concentration while on the line and supplement it with a supreme confidence in his ability to shoot with the best.

Joe had little to start with in those days, not even his first gun. So, being an opportunist, he borrowed a Colt Shooting Master from his Commanding Officer, Major Fairchild, for a match—and kept it three months.

"I don't know what the Major says about it now, ten years later, but I pretty near wore that revolver out dry firing in the barracks. I spent every evening during that time squeezing away at a bullseye on the wall, developing that concentration I knew I needed. Of course, it also helped other things—trigger control, timing, and my form in general.

"After I all but wore out the Major's gun, I decided I'd better get my own."

Though not overly endowed with the folding green stuff as an Army enlisted man before the war, Joe nonetheless did very well in the selection of three guns. All were bought during 1939, two of them secondhand, and he still uses them exclusively. This is in line with Benner's belief that many shooters unnecessarily handicap themselves with too much experimentation.

"If you have a good gun and have it worked over properly by a good gunsmith—which is necessary if you expect to win a match—it will last a long time. Jesse Harpe has worked over all three of my guns. King has worked on my .38. And then Berdon has worked over them recently. I've added Sanderson grips to all three guns and trigger shoes to the .22 and .38."

Like Reeves again, Benner prefers his trigger pulls to be fairly hard. He has his .22 and .38 adjusted to about three pounds, while his .45 fires with a little over four pounds pull.

After starting out with an old-style Match Target Woodsman as his first gun, Joe bought a heavy barrel Officer's Model from a rifle shooter at Camp Perry for twenty dollars. He has had a short action added to the latter gun and definitely prefers it that way as long as it operates satisfactorily. The .45 Colt automatic he bought from a mail order house on a rather painless five-bucks-down, five-bucks-a-month deal.

As to ammunition, the Champ is especially touchy. He does not reload since he has no tools and no place to keep them if he did. But he does insist upon using .45 caliber handloads by D. J. Hands "if I want to win a match."

"I think that handloads with the .45 can make as much as ten to fifteen points difference over the National Match Course compared to service ammo," Benner contends.

Wtih his .22 and center-fire guns, Joe sticks to factory ammo and has his own preference as to brand, basing his choice largely upon the number of misfires. "It doesn't seem to make too much difference as far as grouping is concerned except that I have to hold different for each one. Yes, I try to use the six-o'clock hold."

Though he won an occasional match during his early years, it was not until late in 1939 that Joe felt he was on a par with teammate Tumlin and ready to make his big move. But there was yet another change in the Benner strategy. It was hard, he found, to maintain his mental control over a full program of events.

"How good can a guy get?" seems to be what big Porky Tumlin is asking as Benner scopes his target. Veteran 'Doc' Cooks looks on

"I was used to shooting for a win in individual matches because I knew I didn't have a chance in the aggregate anyway. But now I felt it was time to change—to try to get a good score in every match to play for an aggregate total and let the individual matches take care of themselves.

"They do, of course, but the most important thing is that pressure doesn't seem to bother me as much now as it used to. And I don't encourage it by watching other shooters' scores. That will cause you to force your shots, and that's bad.

"I used to check pretty carefully on what Reeves, Hemming, Emmett Jones, Thurman Barrier, and the other hotshots had, but Jones cured me of that. That rascal would never tell the truth about his score. I remember I asked him his score in a match and he told me it was 192. After I messed up my own on the next relay, I found out all he had was a 180. It served me right—I don't do it any more. My advice on this pressure business is just shoot the best you can all the time and don't worry about the other fellow.

"Another thing," Benner adds. "You've got to concentrate on your weakest point. I always thought that, of the three guns, I was the weakest with the .38. That might have been because I can't afford to practice with it the way I do with the other two. But in the last three matches I've fired against Reeves, I have beaten him with the .38 and now I think it is my strongest gun."

Benner practices very little now that he has reached the top, but the matches in and around Louisville seem to keep him in top shape. "It's when you're on your way up that practice means the most and it requires more work than most pistol shooters want to put into it," is his theory.

"Yes, I can understand how Reeves seems to have lost some of his incentive for shooting. I noticed it as soon as I won the championship last summer. I figured that I had gone as high as I could go. But I had the incentive in the early days—the incentive to be the top pistol shooter in the country.

"Now I've got another incentive. I'm going to win the National Individual Match some day. I don't know how I'm going to do it, but I am. I've got a .45 that I won at Tampa that I'm sighting in with GI ammo, and I'm not going to use it for anything else until I win that mug."

Benner, who now holds eleven all-time individual national records on NRA books, plus thirteen service records, is mechanical perfection on the firing line. He got his biggest shooting thrill at the Southern Indiana matches at Jeffersonville, when he went clean in a twenty-shot .22 caliber timed-fire match, and then patiently ground out fifty additional tens for one of the most amazing performances on record. Actually there were four more tens that didn't count since the NRA credits only complete five-shot strings. The crowd that gathered behind his firing point thought he would never finish. Also on the books to Benner's credit are strings of 55 straight tens in a gallery rapid-fire match, 45 straight in an outdoor rapid-fire match again with the .22, and 35 straight tens with the .38 revolver in another timed-fire event.

"Without trying to brag, I'd say that I'm the best rapid- and timed-fire shooter in the country," says Automatic Joe, who ain't so bad with the slow-fire stuff either. "I don't know how to explain it, but every once in a while out there on the line a dead feeling comes over me and the gun just hangs out there. When that happens, I figure that a record's going to fall.

"I don't know how to bring that deadness on, though. I know that drinking won't do it," he adds without elaboration.

Physically, Joe has no special advantages or drawbacks. His eyes are keen, but he'll never look at the world through rose-colored glasses because the guy is color blind.

"I can't differentiate between red or green," he explained when we asked what colors he had the most trouble with, "or yellow or brown or blue or purple—and maybe a few others."

Jean, the pretty brunette Hoosier-born girl Joe married in 1942, thinks the Champ sees life like an ordinary movie—all blacks and whites with gray tones in between. Joe adds that it doesn't make much difference as long as the bullseye continues to look black.

"Who are the toughest men to beat on the pistol range? Well, the number one spot has to go to Reeves. Al Hemming I would rate right behind him as next toughest. Then, according to my experience, would come Thurman Barrier and Charlie Densford," says Joe.

"There is one thing about pistol shooting to remember—there is enough of the human element in it to give a pretty wide variance between top scores and ordinary scores. That's how our game differs from rifle shooting, where scores are pretty well grouped together and the element of luck means so much. In pistol shooting, the best man nearly always wins."

◆ ◆ ◆

The Author

ACCORDING TO BIG-TIMER RUDY ETCHEN, WHO'S BEEN ALL-AMERICAN UMPTEEN TIMES,

TRAPSHOOTING IS AN ART

ONE DAY many years ago, the idea was conceived of shooting shotguns at something other than live game. This started a new line of business for the gun, ammunition, and powder companies. Manufacturers of aspirin and other headache remedies have, no doubt, also benefited appreciably. The art of smashing clay targets into bits has grown into a great national sport.

The first time a person picks up a shotgun, walks out to the trapshooting firing line, calls a meek 'pull' and tries to smash a clay target, he is on the way to experiencing many thrills—plus a few disappointments. For the benefit of those who have not shot nor seen trapshooting, here are the simple facts.

There are three types of trapshooting. The regular 16-yard singles, yardage handicap, and doubles.

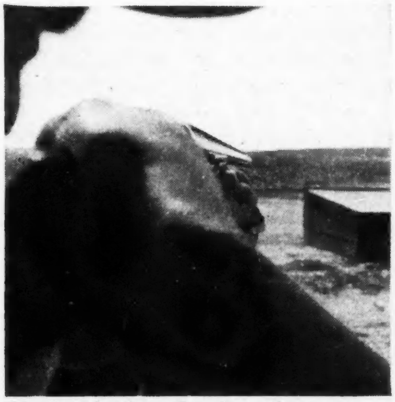
Practically every trapshooter-to-be starts with 16-yard singles shooting and graduates into the handicap. Doubles are usually fired only after many shells have been expended in the process of mastering the other two. In 16-yard singles the shooter stands at one of five shooting positions situated in a semi-arc, each being 16 yards distant from the 'trap' that hurls the clay pigeons when the trapshooter calls 'Targets.' Twenty-five shells are expended per 'round,' five shots being fired from each position. All of the targets shot at in trapshooting are thrown 48 to 52 yards from the trap, and usually rise to an elevation of nine to twelve feet at a point 30 feet in front of the trap.

The shooter assumes a shooting stance, shoulders his shotgun, points at the traphouse that houses the target thrower or trap, calls 'Pull,' and fires at the target as it sails through the air. It seems simple enough, doesn't it?

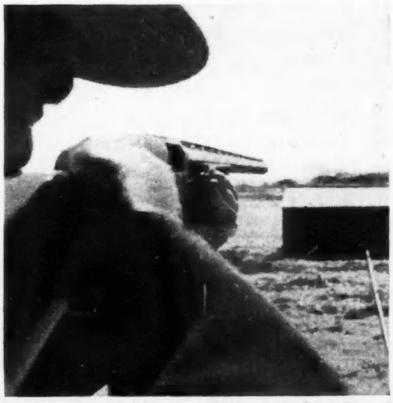
The first important thing to the new trapshooter or any shooter is that his gun fit him correctly (See 'Shotguns Are Different,' by Rudy Etchen, AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, February, 1948). Stance is next. It is extremely necessary to assume a relaxed and natural stance. We will presume our gunner is right-handed. Therefore his left foot will be planted slightly forward of the right one. The amount of spread between the feet will vary with the size and weight of the shooter. The heavier the shooter, the wider his feet should be apart. This is to keep the shooter from being 'top heavy' and off balance.

The left knee is slightly flexed and the main body weight is evenly distributed on both legs. This evenly-distributed weight and correct body balance via the spread of the feet is necessary to effect smooth and rhythmic movements. The smoother the movement of the gun and body, the better chance the shooter has of establishing good timing in shooting the targets. Smoothness and timing are the prime qualifications of a good shot and these two produce a very effective follow-through.

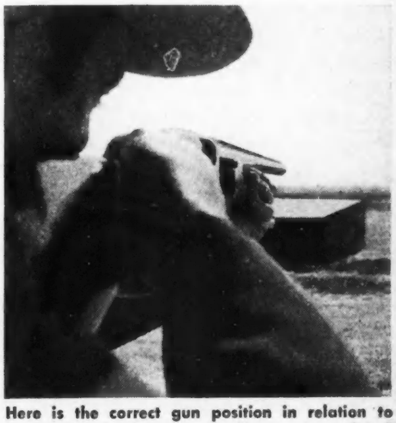
There is a simple way of walking to a trapshooting layout and assuming the correct stance. For instance, if you are a right-handed shooter, always point your left foot, which is placed slightly forward of your right one, at the spot where your hardest target will go, or at the target having the sharpest angle from that particular position. In other words, if you are standing on post No. 1, then the left angle will be your sharpest angle and probably your hardest target to hit. Therefore, point your left foot out toward the spot where you



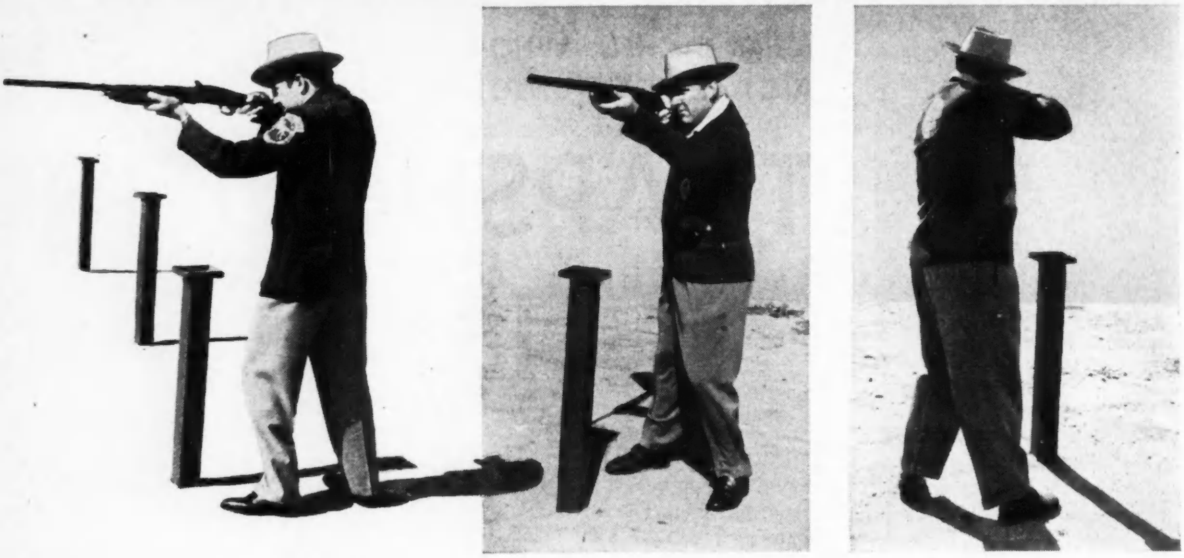
This photo by the author shows the correct gun position in relation to the traphouse at post 1



Correct gun position in relation to where barrel is pointed at the traphouse from post number 3



Here is the correct gun position in relation to the traphouse when shooting from post number 5



At left Jake Harrison, Allied Artists feature actor, demonstrates the correct position at post three. Center, Rudy Etchen with the proper stance at post one. Note left knee slightly flexed and left foot pointed out to open stance. This makes free swinging and fast pointing easier. On the right, a back view of the author at the same post. Left foot stance allows easy swing if the shooter draws one of those difficult left-angle targets

plan to hit that left-angle target, should you draw one. This foot position has opened up your stance enough so that you are 'set' and able to swing smoothly and with a higher degree of accuracy. If your stance faces directly at the traphouse, then you are 'body blocked' and not able to swing to the left smoothly or easily.

The stance thus arrived at can be adapted to each post. For instance, post No. 5 has the possibility of extending the gunner a tough, sharp right-angle bird. So point the left foot out toward the spot where you'll take that bird. It is incorrect to face squarely into the traphouse on any of the five positions with the exception of post No. 3.

A left-handed shooter can simply turn the rules around to suit him. His right foot would be the 'pointer' and the right foot would be slightly forward of the left.

In many cases, shooters find it necessary to point their forward foot at as great an angle as they actually receive their angle targets from posts No. 1 and No. 5. If you have a lot of natural coordination and a good follow-through, you will be able to split the difference between the outside edge of the traphouse and the spot where you actually intend to break the sharp-angle bird. Much of this is up to the individual, but *everyone should favor their hard birds* via their stance, thereby automatically providing themselves with a position favorable to good body movement which is conducive to smooth swinging and accurate gun pointing. As long as your pointer foot is in a correct position, you will usually follow through, whether you want to or not.

If you are a trapshooter now, and wonder if your stance has you body blocked, assume your normal position in relation to the traphouse and look to see where your pointer or forward foot is pointing.

Also, if there is any doubt in your mind about flexing the knee on your forward leg and keeping the other knee stiff to provide for a smoother swing, assume your normal position and hold both knees stiff. Then try to swing your gun in an arc of 140 degrees. You will find you are able to, but not easily or smoothly. Now flex the knee of your forward leg and hold the other knee stiff. You will now notice how easily and smoothly you can swing your gun in that 140-degree arc.

The follow-through of your gun is very necessary. It should be natural and not forced. No one ever saw a good golfer hit the ball with a club and then stop his swing. The follow-through of the golf club gives the ball accuracy and direction as well as distance. Adapt this to trapshooting (though we are not interested in distance but in accuracy and direction). The golfer uses stance to bring out a good smooth follow-through. He also bends a knee. Shooting is much like this. One other thing in relation to hitting a golf ball or pulling the trigger on a shotgun—if the participant of either sport raises his head or looks up too quickly, he won't see anything good.

The follow-through is also very important in relation to the proper lead in shooting clay targets. The faster the gunner's follow-through, the less lead he finds necessary in order to hit a target.

Personally, I do not believe in a measured lead. A one foot lead to one person is sometimes judged as three feet to another. Also, I've always felt that when you tell someone to lead a target three feet, the gunner tries to pull out three feet ahead of the target, then takes another look to make sure, and finally pulls the trigger. By the time he has done all this, the target has traveled too far, his timing has been slowed down, and he invariably stops his gun when he pulls the trigger. This kills his follow-through and the shot goes ahead or behind the target.

It has been proven to me that each shooter should find out, through practice and personal observance, just how good his

RUDY ETCHEN'S trapshooting record for 1947 ably backs up his right to say it's an art. His registered average for the year was 98.3 percent on 3,000 tournament targets (16-yard singles). In the professional class at Vandalia, he scored 94X100 (doubles); 100X100 for the singles championship; 95X100 for the Grand American Handicap (24 yards); 388X400 for the All-Around Championship; and 678X700 for professional class High Overall Grand American.

follow-through is. No one can tell an individual how far to lead a target, unless the instructor has spent enough time with the shooter to know his full case history and just exactly what the shooter is doing, as well as how good his judgment is.

To the shooter with a fast follow-through, leads will seem insignificant. It will seem to him that he is shooting almost directly at the angle targets. But to the shooter who has a poor follow-through or none at all, the leads will seemingly run into feet. It's all up to the individual.

Good fast timing greatly enhances lead, because your gun is traveling fast enough to follow-through automatically or keep swinging after you pull the trigger. Some shooters shoot targets 38 to 40 yards away from them. This means they are too slow in their timing, and very likely miss lots of angle birds by shooting behind them. If you shoot this slowly, you are very likely 'aiming' at the targets and stopping your follow-through when you pull the trigger. You should 'point' at the targets and *shoot on your first point*. This keeps your timing fast and provides a good follow-through.

Your eyes are one of the fastest functioning parts of your body, and that first 'point' your eyes make is practically always your best anyway, so shoot on the first point. Don't try to be too careful and 'rifle shoot' something that is moving as fast as a clay target. Simply point at a flying clay target in the approximate place you think is correct and cut loose.

The 30-inch pattern developed in a full-choke, 12-gauge trap gun will take care of slightly incorrect points. But if you try to aim every shot and take plenty of time, you will shoot behind lots of angle birds and if you have any follow-through at all, it will be unnatural and of little value.

Those clay targets are not hanging by sky hooks, waiting for you to get them in the cross-hairs. If they were, you would probably break more. If the sharp angle targets were to fly backwards, it's a cinch a lot of shooters would chalk up better averages. Unfortunately or fortunately as the case may be, the targets don't do either; so keep your stance opened up correctly for each post, keep your follow-through working naturally, and keep your timing as fast as possible. All three can be made to work together for you or, if you overlook one, all three will work together against you.

There is one question many new trapshooters ask. "Where should I hold my gun in relation to the traphouse when it is shouldered and I'm ready to call 'pull'?

This is quite a controversial issue. Most shooters gradually work themselves into pointing at a level that best suits their type of shooting. Also, most shooters will find that if they level their guns about a foot below the top of the traphouse, they will be able to pick up the general direction of the bird as soon as it leaves the traphouse. Having this direction in mind, the shooter can then start his track toward the bird in a fast, smooth, and confident movement.

If you hold your gun too high over the traphouse, the bird has a start before you pick up its direction. Also, more often than not, a shooter will jump or jerk to make a point at the bird and fire. Jumps or jerks are terminated by a stoppage of movement and there is absolutely no follow-through.

However, many shooters prefer to level their guns a foot or so above the traphouse and they break a good many targets by doing it that way. I wouldn't recommend it for a beginner, though.

One other thing in conjunction with the level at which you hold your gun on or over the traphouse. Whatever the level, be certain to hold well to the *left* side of the traphouse from shooting post No. 1. The No. 2 position can be halfway between the left corner and center of the traphouse. Position No. 3 directly into or over the center. Position No. 4 halfway between the center and the right corner. And post No. 5 on or over the right corner of the traphouse.

By using this technique of pointing at or near the various spots mentioned from the five different posts, the shooter has relieved himself of the handicap of having too far to swing on any target. In other words, he has favored the angle shots, yet not put himself out of position to shoot a straightaway.

Usually, when a shooter has trouble with one type of target, he raises his head off the gun stock *before* pulling the trigger. This is anticipation and lack of confidence caused by wanting to see if your are going to hit it before you actually pull the trigger. Do not ever try to guess or outsmart the trap. Invariably you will draw just the opposite bird from what you thought you would get.

Probably one of the most often missed of any targets on a trapfield is the shot known as a quarter angle. The shooter sees this quarter angle target leave the traphouse and it may look like a straightaway shot to him. He pulls up to it like it were a straightaway and gets his shot off. The bird keeps on flying and the score keeper calls out a lusty 'lost bird' and puts a neat zero on the score sheet.

By that time the shooter has realized that he shot at a quarter angle target that looked straightaway to him. Actually, it was tracking slightly to the left or right. Having shot it as a straightaway with no lead, the shooter's shot went slightly behind the seemingly simple target.

The moral of this incident is to be extremely observant of the flight of the target as it leaves the traphouse. Don't be fooled by one type of target that resembles another, such as the quarter angle.

There are lots of bugaboos that plague the trapshooter, but that's what makes the game. If you broke all the targets all of the time, think how dull it would be. ● ● ●

NEXT MONTH: Of interest to home workshop men will be part II of Tom Gresham's series on remodeling the Springfield. Also scheduled: "A Club Came Back," in which Col. William D. Frazier tells how an old West Coast rifle club was put back on the active list; Fred Seguin on machine-rest tests of .22 caliber handguns; George Parizek with the first of three articles on modifying rifle scopes. And by the August issue's deadline, too, we'll know the final personnel of the rifle and pistol squads that will represent the United States in the 1948 Olympic Games at London, England.

THE OLD COACH'S PAGE

The use of drugs and alcohol by shooting champs has been debunked time and again, most recently by a prominent coach and competitive pistolman, Major Ellis Lea ("Mental Match Conditioning," Rifleman, *December, 1947, page 12). However, the belief that top-ranking shooters rely upon artificial 'aids' to enable them to shoot winning scores is still met with upon rifle and, particularly, pistol ranges. The author of the Old Coach this month, himself a Distinguished Pistol Shot, member of the USMC Pistol Team, medal winner in the .22 and .45 Caliber Aggregates at Camp Perry in 1947, and among the first five in the NRA All-Around Pistol Championship Aggregate in 1941, gives his personal observations concerning 'steadiers' and their use among ranking marksmen, both on and off the range.*

WHAT DO YOU USE AS A STEADIER?

"Say, tell me what you used to settle yourself down before you shot that score?"

"Not a thing, pal."

"Nuts!"

This bit of conversation has taken place so many times that I am of the opinion that a wide-spread belief exists among shooters—especially the newer ones—that all you need do in order to shoot top scores is to get a bottle of some 'steadier' which is highly recommended by Joe Blow and move right into the winner's circle.

On several occasions when I have been asked a leading question about what I use, my negative reply was met not only with an expression of disbelief but also with a certain amount of resentment because I would not disclose the composition of the magic elixir. Exploratory conversations with my interrogators indicate that alcohol and some sedative drugs are believed to be the basis of the success of some of our better marksmen, especially pistol shooters, and that top ranking scores are virtually impossible without such assistance.

It is well known that shooters in general, and pistol shooters in particular, become afflicted at times with a strange inability to hold their favorite weapon steadily or to let-off a shot properly. This condition almost invariably occurs during a match or during some other period of strain or anxiety. It is a combination of physical and mental factors and its manifestations are more pronounced in some shooters than in others, although, in my opinion, all shooters in competition feel it to a greater or lesser degree. The less fortunate members of the fraternity cast about for ways and means to overcome the unsteadiness.

Not being a member of the medical profession and not having conducted any exhaustive tests in the matter, I probably am not qualified to speak with authority on the effect of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs on the scoring ability of a shooter. However, the gathering together of a few facts, possibly coincidences, may be significant, and of interest, especially to the newer shooters.

The 1947 Pistol Classification book lists over 2900 registered shooters. Of these 2900, only 168 are masters with at least one gun and only thirteen have an average of 95 or better in the .22-Center Fire class. This latter group may rightly be termed the 'cream of the crop' since the average is based on consistently good performance.

Of the thirteen top shooters, eleven are known to me personally. At least nine of the group shoot absolutely 'cold.' Eight will take an occasional drink when off the range. Seven are non-smokers. None of these shooters are doctors.

The observations lead me to conclude that

1. Drinking immediately before or during a match is either unnecessary or detrimental to good performance.
2. An occasional away from the range drink will do no harm.
3. Smoking does not seem to be a steadying or relaxing influence.
4. There is no harmless drug that will turn you into a human machine rest, otherwise the medical men, who would have such knowledge, would be the leading scorers on the range.

In the preceding paragraphs we have indicated the unlikelihood of any particular type of tobacco affecting adversely the 'T' (for trigger) zone, and the liquid refreshment of shooters of distinction seems to possess a base other than alcoholic. The drugs are not worth discussing, so all this leads us right back to where we started—the question, "How can I settle myself to shoot a good score?"

There is no magic short road to success as a shooter. A thorough knowledge and painstaking application of a frequently forgotten set of principles called fundamentals will smooth the way. Webster defines fundamentals as: "Serving as a foundation or basis: a primary or necessary principle."

Good shooting comes from training in the application of fundamental principles. Many of the body muscles come into play when shooting, and only constant training will bring about coordination between the eye and those muscles. No potion or pill is going to develop, or suddenly make possible, the necessary involuntary reactions which the good shot must develop through self-discipline and careful application. It is true that some individuals seem to have more natural ability at shooting, and therefore pick up the technique much quicker than others. But you never know how good you might be until you have at least made the necessary effort to master good shooting technique.

After a thorough groundwork of fundamentals, keep a close record of all your shooting and you will ascertain your average practice score. You cannot expect to beat this in a match except under unusual circumstances. Keep a close record of your match scores, too, and when your *match average* equals or exceeds your *practice average* then you have quaffed deeply by building up your *match average* in *matches.* Then only the mechanics of holding, squeezing, and keeping groups centered will cause you to lose points.

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THE SPOTTING SCOPE -- July 1948

New York City shooters now have their own radio program—Eleanor Dunn's "Gun Club of the Air" over WFUV. . . . Look for increased competitive shooting interest among students at the University of Arkansas. New PMS&T at the Fayetteville school is Major Richard B. Bullock, a genuine target enthusiast. . . . Gadsden, Alabama, has a famous new deputy sheriff—James A. Tumlin. The former Army pistol-shootin' tech sergeant was defeated for sheriff, but the victor named him to his new post. . . . Veteran international rifleshot Frank Parsons is on the comeback trail. Creaky bones and all, he is in training for a try at a post on the U. S. Olympic Free Rifle Team. . . . The Morley and District Home Guard Rifle Club of Great Britain wants postal matches with U. S. clubs—teams of six or eight, average about 97; 25 yards indoor range. Contact E. L. Richardson, Ravensworth, Dewsbury Road, Tingley, Nr. Wakefield, Yorks, England. Yes, that's the return address.

By far the best editorial job in the country for target folk is Shooter's News, an eight-page newspaper turned out by P. H. Teachout for the Vermont State Rifle & Pistol Association. It covers competitive activity throughout the country, costs only a buck a year. Address: Shooter's News, East Burke, Vt. . . . Police Department of River Forest, Illinois, now encourages marksmanship qualification among its personnel with pay bonus schedule up to $7.50 per month. . . . The National Conference on Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency is spreading its activity to all U. S. towns with population of 10,000 and over. NRA rifle clubs can now take the lead in their communities by offering their facilities for juvenile recreation and instruction to their Mayors. . . . Congressional passage of the Burke-Wherry Bill provides for release of Government surplus lands used during war as camp sites to state and federal wildlife commissions for use as game refuge areas.

Dire things were threatened for NRA technical expert Al Barr by pet lovers as the result of a photo in the May issue of True magazine captioned: "Barr shooting a favorite bull pup.". . . Foreign shooting clubs are flocking to take advantage of NRA Executive Committee decision to allow affiliated non-resident groups. Arrangements are now being worked out. . . . Many thanks to NRA Junior Instructor Eric Mansur of Melrose High School and to the editor of The Massachusetts Teacher for the excellent article on junior rifle shooting which reached 20,000 Bay State teachers in the May issue. . . . Add Friends of Shooters—The New York World-Telegram says editorially: "The Sullivan Law has never succeeded in disarming criminals whose gun supplies remain ample as ever. It has only disarmed and made defenseless against them the decent citizen for whom it makes mere unlicensed possession of a firearm a very serious crime. . . . What's basically wrong with the Sullivan Law is its absurd refusal to allow any consideration whatever for the element of intent in what it defines as criminal."

Morford Grimes, who has written on shooting club promotion for The Rifleman, did likewise in the May issue of Field & Stream. . . . NRA member Mark E. Weddle, writing for a rifle instruction booklet, adds: "Being a direct descendant of Daniel Boone, I think this book ought to be furnished free so I could learn to shoot like 'grandpa'." . . . Why, Mr. Weddle, being a direct descendant of Dan'l, you shouldn't need the book. . . . When are prospective members going to let the NRA quit guessing at their identity? Recent mail bags have included a five-dollar bill in an unidentified envelope, and a three-dollar U. S. Postal Note as blank as a tyro's rapid-fire target. . . . After seeing our mention in April of Sam Mansfield's nineteen years as a club secretary, the San Luis Obispo (California) Rifle Club sends word of its candidate for longevity-in-office honors—Secretary-Treasurer John Perozzi, who has served continuously since January, 1921. How far back can we go? . . . Legionnaires, read "Got a Gun? You're a Criminal!" by W. H. B. Smith in the June issue of Legion and see that other members of your post do likewise. . . . Credit Herb T. Brown, NRA Life Member, with an intelligent job of shooting news presentation in the clever Sports Almanac weekly being published in Portland, Oregon. . . . NRA fieldman Ray Whitaker has been named vice-chairman of the Oklahoma state branch of the National Security Committee. . . . Don't forget the 1st Annual NRA Convention in Washington, October 25-28.

Ray Stann

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle Rem

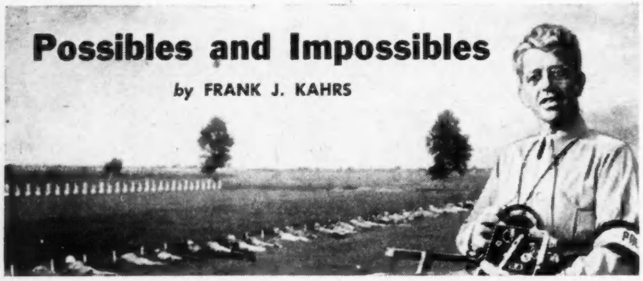
VOL. 11, NO. 7

BRIDGEPORT, CONNE T, JULY,

REMINGTON IS R
AS SUMMER

Possibles and Impossibles

by FRANK J. KAHRS



I am making the following the feature item of my column this month because I think every rifleman will be interested in knowing something about the sporting spirit of two shooting organizations.

Since the year 1905, members of the 107th Infantry, New York National Guard, (New York City's famous "Seventh Regiment"), and of the Queen's Westminster and Civil Service Rifles, a London territorial regiment, have compared their skill as military riflemen in a spirit seldom connected with International riflefire.

The visiting team travels seven thousand miles for a day's shoulder-to-shoulder shooting under "any conditions that may be mutually arranged, provided that they be the most sporting possible and designed to bring out the best qualities rather of the men than of the rifles."

These conditions for the match were laid down in 1905 by the donor of the trophy, Colonel Sir Howard Vincent, Aide-de-Camp to King Edward VII, and for twenty years Colonel of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers. Unlike the detailed and legalistic conditions governing most international sporting events, these few words have produced a series of competitions as satisfactory to the two regiments as some of the agreements between them have been paradoxical to more hard-headed shooters on both sides of the Atlantic. The plans for the 1948 match will illustrate the working of "the rules:"

The Seventh Regiment now holds the trophy and would normally defend it on its home range. Since British travel restrictions make it impossible for The Queen's team to visit the United States, the "most sporting" solution is for the Seventh to send its team and trophy to Bisley. This it will do in June—a team composed largely of recruits firing their first important match for the recently federalized 107th Infantry Combat Team, the new name of the Old Seventh. These young New Yorkers will meet a team of young Londoners, the recruits of the newly organized Queen's Westminsters and Civil Service Rifles.

* * *

I have been pecking away at the promotion of Junior rifle shooting in the column now for quite some time because I firmly believe that the future of our rifle shooting sport depends on the interest that we create among the youngsters when they are in summer camps and in schools of all kinds. Also, of course, the 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America and, etc.

Quite recently I ran across a very interesting activity over in New Jersey. Now in the first place, it was a Senior rifle and pistol club who sponsored this Match, and it was called the "First Annual Junior Rifle Team Match." As a matter of fact, there were 22 teams in the Match, and a total of 108 shooters. An 18-year-old girl from the Maplewood Junior Rifle Club made the high individual score with a possible 200 and her team took first place with 982 out of a possible one thousand. Even the Paterson and Tenafly Police Departments entered Junior Rifle Club Teams, and there were numerous teams from the High Schools in the vicinity of Teaneck, Hackensack, etc.

Now, if they can do this in one place, it can be done in another and that is the point of my story here. If every Senior Rifle Club would undertake to run an Annual Junior Team at say the local Armory, or wherever there are sufficient firing points indoors to accommodate quite a few teams it will soon demonstrate itself by the aroused interest everywhere. All it needs is a spark plug. Are you the spark plug? Let's see what we can do with this thing because fundamentally the boy of today is the man of tomorrow and if we can get him young we've got him for life.

Palma Kleanbore, Targetmaster, Rangemaster are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

"RANGER" PROGRAM ATTRACTS TYROS TO SHOOTING SPORT

Here is a fine way to get young shooters you know interested in the shooting game. It will interest young boys in informal shooting, and lead to organized shooting later.

Youngsters can get 10 free official NRA Ranger targets, plus a folder telling them how to use a gun safely; how to get helpful free literature on how to shoot; and how they can win the attractive 3-inch Ranger shooting emblem shown above.

All they have to do is to write to Sportsmen's Service Bureau, Dept. RAR-1, 343 Lexington Ave., New York 16, N. Y. Encourage your young friends to write in.

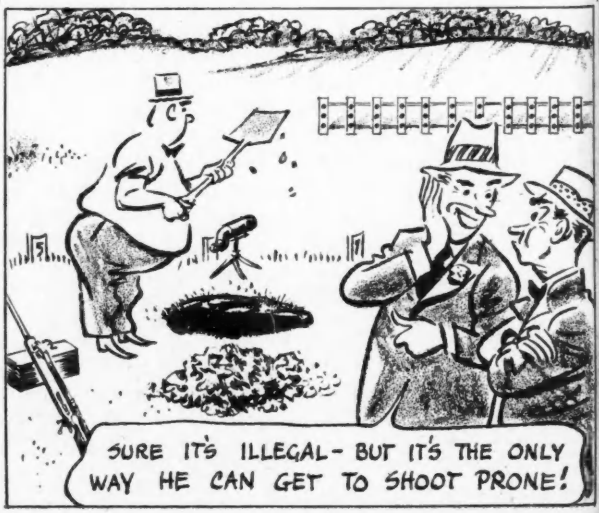
Camp Perry Hotshots Getting Ready For 1948 Championships

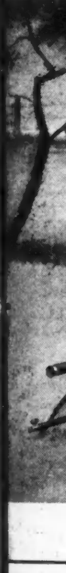
Boxing may have its heavyweight championships and football its bowl games . . . but the annual sporting event which attracts the greatest number of top flight shooters is the annual CAMP PERRY!

This month finds high scoring smallbore shooters getting in practice early and late, sharpening up their form, preparing for Camp Perry Championship matches.

Going to Perry? Better count on shooting Remington match ammunition for tight, uniform groups. Staying around the local firing lines? Then do as masters do—shoot their choice for match ammunition—Remington!

Around Our Club . . . The "Exception"


SURE IT'S ILLEGAL - BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY HE CAN GET TO SHOOT PRONE!



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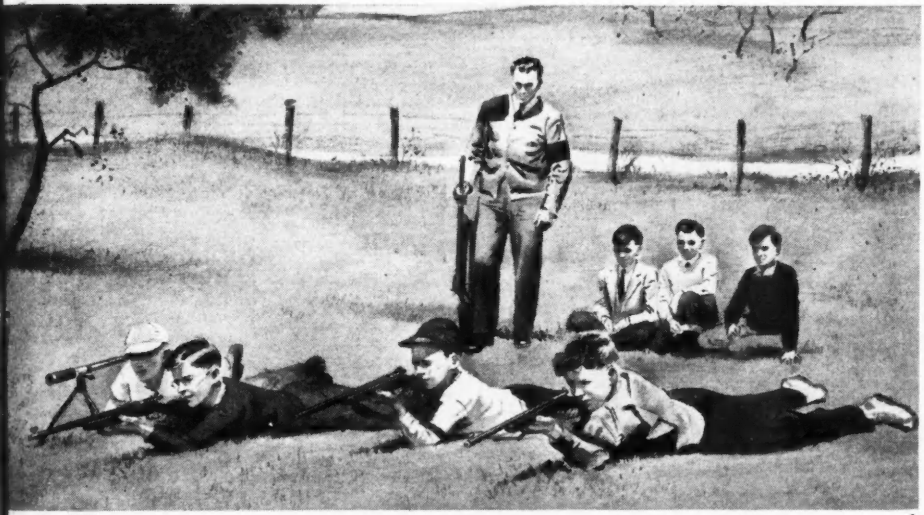
NNE T, JULY, 1948

First Class Reading Matter for Rifle and Pistol Shooters

WEATHER:
LET IT RAIN . . . IF YOUR CLUB'S FIRING
POINTS ARE COVERED

S RIGHT FOR SHOOTING FUN EASON SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR



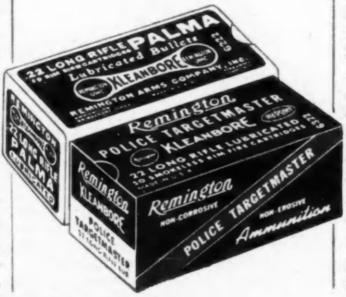
SUMMER SHOOTING PROGRAMS ARE POPULAR WITH YOUNGSTERS!

epen dable Remington Match Ammo Develops Confidence in Shooters

Constant practice will give u confidence in wind-doping, d improve your squeezing . . . t all your skill will only be good as the match ammunin you use. That's why many perts absolutely rely on mington match ammunition.

Confidence follows naturally hen you shoot Remington olice Targetmaster" or alma Kleanbore." These fas match favorites continue mean consistently fine acracy, year after year . . . ady backing of a shooter's ility.

When you pick up one of e familiar red and green xes and transfer the conts to your cartridge block, u know that you'll get all quality, reliability and dendability that years of Remington research, plus untold thousands of accuracy tests can give any ammunition. Then you can settle into position with confidence, knowing that your ability to put 'em where you want 'em will be equaled by the perfection of your Remington match ammunition.



MID-SEASON MATCHES CALL FOR TOP SKILL AND TOP EQUIPMENT FOR WINNING SCORES

Along about now the high scorers who found their outdoor form early are being pressed by the late-starters who are just getting around to hitting their peak.

Whether a shooter gets hot early or late, he is bound to get the most from his talents if he has the finest equipment. A rifle like the Remington Model 37 "Rangemaster," for example, is not only mechanically perfect, it fits right in every way and gives superior performance. Its trigger is called "miracle" because of exceptionally smooth, crisp pull and lightning fast let-off without perceptible movement. Its matchless performance in important matches has made it an ever-growing favorite.

Mountains or Shore, Vacation or Home, Remington Equipment Is Active and Popular

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., July, 1948. Smallbore headlines go, of course, to the Regionals, the Olympics, and the forthcoming Camp Perry matches. But in back of all that hot shooting there's a tremendous amount of shooting fun going on. No matter where you go, you're bound to see somebody plinking away or aiming at the "X" ring as if he meant it.

Young boys and girls in 4-H clubs, "Future Farmers of America," Scout organizations, "Y's" or summer camps invariably take part in rifle shooting activities. Here's where you'll find Remington's Models 521T and 513T extremely popular. The Model 521T is especially designed for such rugged "double duty" summer shooting because it is an ideal combination of a sharp-shooting target rifle as well as an all-round plinking and small game hunting rifle. As for ammunition, for this kind of rifle work, Remington standard velocity delivers fine accuracy and uniformly good shooting.

Away from the camps or organized groups and you'll find Dad taking trips—and taking a Remington along for "plinking" pleasure. Summer even finds Mom taking occasional shots with a Remington—and liking it fine! There's absolutely no reason why rifle shooting shouldn't become a family affair. Certain clubs have been very successful with family matches, father and son competitions, etc. It's a great boon to shooting interest and activity . . . especially in the summertime when the whole family can get out together!

National Gallery Rifle Title Taken by Frazier Team

Sponsored by J. Earl Frazier and coached by the National Rifle Champion, G. Wayne Moore, the Frazier-Simplex Rifle Club, of the Pittsburgh and Suburban Rifle League won the 1947-48 NRA National Gallery Rifle Championship. In the pistol competition the Federal Employees Pistol Club, of Denver, Colorado, successfully defended the National Gallery Pistol title which it first won in the 1946-47 season.

The Frazier-Simplex victory was another personal triumph for J. Earl Frazier, one of the finest friends the sport of target shooting has. A successful business man with very little spare time Frazier first became interested in shooting in 1943. In the summer of that year he attended two NRA tournaments and was impressed with the high quality of sportsmanship exhibited by the shooters. In January of 1944 he decided to sponsor a rifle club for the community of Washington, Pa., and since that time has spared neither time nor expense to boost both his club and the national sport.

That the members of Mr. Frazier's community appreciate his efforts is attested by the rifle victories they have turned in for him in the few years his club has been in existence.

The new National Gallery Rifle Championship team was composed of Robert Mumper, John Slate, J. Kenneth Johnson and Robert W. Moore. To add the National Gallery title to the long list of team and individual state and national championships the Frazier-Simplex Club already holds the team scored 1532 points out of a possible 1600. The runner-up position was so closely contested that the second, third and fourth place teams was decided by ranking according to the standing scores. All three squads garnered a total of 1531 points but the Dearborn Rifle Club, of Dearborn, Michigan, had a 733 out of a possible 800 points in the standing position to beat out last year's champion's, the Minneapolis Rifle Club, of Minneapolis, Minn., for second place. Minneapolis scored 732 for the standing position while the American Legion Post 429, of San Francisco, Calif., recorded 731 to tie down the fourth slot.

Out in Denver, Colo., the Federal Employees Pistol Club team, made up of NRA Director L. F. Markle, John Schooley, Fred Bogue and Harold Flanders, came through with their second National Gallery Pistol Championship in two years with a score of 1112 points out of a possible 1200. The squad's winning total was 6 points under the '47 output but was still good enough to beat the Capitol Pistol Club, of South Bend, Wash., by two points. The Teaneck Rifle and Pistol Club team, of Teaneck, N. J., was third with 1110.

Altogether 763 rifle teams in 99 leagues and 135 pistol teams in 24 leagues competed for the national crowns.

Other winners were:

State Gallery League Rifle Champions: California—A. L. Post 429 San Francisco—1531; **Colorado**—Pueblo Rifle Club—1461; **District of Columbia**—National Capital R & P Club—1495; **Illinois** — Wheaton Rifle Club — 1518; **Indiana**—Michigan City Rifle Club—1527; **Iowa**—Des Moines Rifle & Revolver Club—1509; **Kansas**—Junction City Rifle Club—1516; **Maine**—Bath Rifle & Pistol Club—1407; **Maryland**—Aberdeen Proving Ground R & P Club—1526; **Massachusetts**—Westboro R & P Club—1475; **Michigan**—Dearborn Rifle Club—1531; **Minnesota**—Minneapolis Rifle Club—1531; **Montana**—Whitefish Rifle Club—1524; **New Jersey**—Maplewood Rifle Club—1498; **New Mexico**—Deming R & P Club—1360; **New York**—Metropolitan Rod and Gun Club—1527; **Ohio**—Miami Valley Rifle Club—1525; **Oregon**—Portland Rifle Club—1526; **Pennsylvania**—Frazier Simplex Rifle Club—1532; **South Carolina**—Spartan Rifle & Pistol Club—1449; **Tennessee**—State Line Rifle & Pistol Club—1473; **Utah**—Logan Rifle Club—1513; **Vermont**—Fellow's Gear Shaper Rifle & Pistol Club — 1423; **Virginia** — Norfolk Naval Shipyard Rifle Club—1443; **Washington**—Sportsman's Club—1489; **Wisconsin**—Burlington Rifle Club—1496; **Wyoming**—Casper Isaac Walton League R & P Club—1500.

State Gallery League Pistol Champions: Colorado—Federal Employees Pistol Club—1112; **Indiana**—South Bend Police—1059; **Iowa**—Cerro Gordo Rifle Club Pistol Team—1081; **Massachusetts**—Gardner Rifle & Pistol Club—1026; **Michigan**—Midland Pistol Club—940; **Minnesota**—St. Paul Rifle & Pistol Shooter's Club—1076; **New York**—High Standard—1056; **Wisconsin** — Milwaukee Handgun League—1002.

TOURNAMENT REVIEWS

The Bay District Small Bore Rifle League played host to 94 competitors at Richmond, California, on April 18. Robert Perkins, nationally known shooter, started off the first match, 20 shots iron sights at 50 yards, with an almost perfect score of 200-17x. Second place was earned by Bud Wickersham who fired 199-14x. David Cook shot a possible with 13x's in the 20 shot Iron Sight 50 Meter Match to beat Perkins' 199-10x for first place. Perkins came back with a winning 200 possible with 13x in the 20 shot 100 yard Iron Sight Match to top Gerald Packard who had 199-13x. In the 20 shot Any Sight Match at 50 yards, Perkins had to come through with an almost perfect 200-18x to top John B. Williams' second place score of 200-17x. Williams then placed first in the fifty yard four position match with stage scores of: prone, 50; sitting, 48; kneeling, 50; and standing, 46, for a total of 194. B. T. Olson placed second with 190. In the 50 Meter Any Sight Match Perkins fired another possible with 14x's. Williams again followed him closely with 200-12x. Perkins' 999-72x was offered no argument in the aggregate.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Eastern Sea Board Indoor Dewar Championships were held at the 14th Regiment Armory in Brooklyn, New York, on April 17-18. The championship, awarded to

The Federal Employees Pistol Club team, Denver, Colorado, are repeat National Gallery Pistol Champions. Members of the victorious squad, standing left to right, are: H. F. Flanders, NRA Director L. F. Markle and O. R. Mains (coach). Seated left to right: J. M. Schooley, F. L. Bogue and R. K. Oaks (alternate). Team first won in the 1946-47 gallery season

National Rifle Champion, G. Wayne Moore, coach of the Frazier-Simplex Rifle Club team, looks over one of the targets shot by a member of his 1948 National Gallery Rifle Champions. Next to him is his cousin, Robert K. Moore. Standing behind him, front left to right, are J. Kenneth Johnson, Robert W. Mumper, Jr., and John Slate, all of Washington, Pennsylvania

J. EARL FRAZIER

Sponsor of the Frazier-Simplex Rifle Club. His club members rewarded him with another winning effort in the 1948 National Gallery Rifle Championships. (See story on page 50)

the high scorer in the aggregate of one Iron Sight Dewar Match and one Any Sight Dewar Match was taken by John Crowley with a total of 800-57x. Arthur Jackson won the first individual match with 400-29x, followed closely by Elinor Dunn at 400-28x. John Crowley was third with 400-27x. Walter Tomsen and "Bill" Schweitzer followed in that order with 400-26x and 399-31x respectively. Otto Kolb won the Any Sight Match with 400-38. Tito Balestrieri posted 400-37x for second followed by Ed Kiss with 400-35x. Bill Schweitzer fired the same score as Kiss but was "creedmoored." Balestrieri placed second to Crowley in the aggregate with 799-67x. Otto Kolb took third with 799-67 and Bill Schweitzer, fourth with 799-66.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Flint Rifle and Pistol Club, Flint, Michigan, sponsored the Spring Class C Registered Pistol Tournament on May 2. In the .22 Caliber Slow Fire Match Charles Logie fired 184 for first place. Maurice LaLonde placed second with 182 followed by W. Beemer who fired 176. R. Weaver won the .22 Time Fire Match with 196. Logie was second here with the same score. Logie came back to win the .22 Cal. Rapid Fire Match with 194. LaLonde again followed him with 191. It was Logie again in the .22 National Match Course with 289. This time Allen Burrows placed second and Wilbur Beemer third with 287 and 285 respectively. Logie continued to win throughout the tournament, annexing both the center fire and .45 caliber matches, to end up with the winning aggregate score of 1156. LaLonde placed second with 1133 and Jack Ackerman third with 1121. In the grand aggregate Logie tabulated 2264 for first place, followed by LaLonde with 2214 and Jack Ackerman with 2200.

☆ ☆ ☆

Quentin Brooks took top honors in the May Tournament of the San Francisco Police with a total aggregate of 1086. Gloria Jacobs Norton fired 1065 for second place and Bob Chow's 1058 was good for third. Fred Peixotto was top Expert, with 1045; Wade Anderson, top Sharpshooter, with 1005; and Edward Murray, top Marksman, with 962.

OLYMPIC MATCH DATES

Scores already reported from Preliminary Olympic Tryouts indicate that the competition will be keen and that the United States can look forward to being represented by rifle and pistol squads of the highest caliber. Since many U. S. shooters will wish to follow the press accounts of our rifle and pistol squads, we are printing below, for their convenience, the Olympic shooting schedule covering the matches which will be conducted at Bisley, England.

Monday, August 2nd: Free Pistol Match, 50 Meters.

Tuesday, August 3rd: Small-Bore Free Rifle Match, 50 Meters.

Wednesday, August 4th: Rapid-Fire Pistol Match, 25 Meters.

Thursday, August 5th: A. M.—Free Rifle (full bore), prone, 300 Meters.

P. M.—Free Rifle (full bore), kneeling, 300 Meters.

Friday, August 6th: Free Rifle (full bore), standing, 300 Meters.

CLASSIFICATION BOOKS OUT

From the number of requests for information pertaining to the 1948 Classification Books and "1948 Classification Cards" we assume that the word has not yet entirely gotten around that the NRA will not publish a classification book anymore. Since classifications, under the new system, are subject to constant change, a classification book could serve no useful purpose. By the time the book was compiled, printed and distributed it would be out of date because of classification changes. Such a book would simply cause confusion by recording what a competitor's classifications had once been. By the same token, the NRA will no longer mail out classification cards *on the calendar year basis*. New cards will be sent out only when a competitor's classification changes.

REPORT FROM DCM

Rifle orders from NRA members received by the DCM from Oct. 1, 1947, up to and including December 7, 1947, have now been placed with the nearest arsenal. At present the DCM is working at the fastest pace it has maintained in months but the December orders were so large that the Army office cannot yet set a date for the resumption of rifle sales. However, as announced in the June issue of THE RIFLEMAN, the prospects for the reopening of such sales, before the end of the year, are becoming brighter.

PISTOL RULE CORRECTION

Rule 2-11 as it appears in the current Pistol Rule Book incorrectly contains the word "tournament" where "match" is intended. The rule should read: "No competitor may fire on more than one team representing the same or any other club in any one match or league."

NRA MEMBER CLUBS

The NRA believes that one of its greatest services to the sport of shooting lies in its policy of promoting and servicing clubs.

The organization plan for Rifle and Pistol Clubs affiliated with the NRA is simple but perhaps not well understood by all members. Clubs, both Rifle and Pistol, are divided into two types of which the most common is the "Class A" club. An A club is one organized for the primary purpose of promoting and practicing the sport of rifle and pistol shooting. It may be formed by ten or more NRA members (18 years of age or over) and all necessary papers of organization, sample bylaws, etc., are supplied without charge by the NRA.

EXPERTS PRAISE NEW PRODUCT

Completion of man's century-long search for the mechanical answers to accuracy in rifle shooting has been announced by the Royden Instrument and Research Corporation of Nevada. After many years of research, R. A. Vissing has perfected the Royden Cant Indicator which conquers cant, the missing link of the three obstacles to shooting accuracy; windage, elevation and cant.

* * *

Dr. C. S. Cummings, Supervisor of Ballistics Standardization at the Remington Arms Company, states ". . . the effect of cant . . . is by no means negligible, even for small degree of cant and short range shooting." Other rifle experts have proved that a cant angle of 5° will produce a miss of 2.6 inches at a distance of only 133 yards.

* * *

The hunter can seldom be sure that the rifle is not canted in hilly, mountainous terrain. A cant indicator is just as important on a rifle scope when extremes of accuracy are desired as a level on a transit, and perfect results as to accuracy are not possible without one or the other.

* * *

Elmer Keith, Outdoorsman Arms Editor, says, "At the longer ranges for any given rifle cartridge, the Royden Cant Indicator is indicated for maximum accuracy and small groups. It provides the only certain method I know of to prevent canting the rifle under any and all conditions of field and target use."

* * *

In a recent letter to us Gen. Julian S. Hatcher, Director of the Technical Division, NRA, stated *"This is a very clever, and useful device."*

* * *

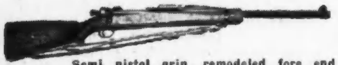
At present the Royden Cant Indicator is installed in the Weaver K2.5, K4, and K6 scopes. Send in your Weaver scope and we will install the Royden Cant Indicator internally for only $12.50. If you do not already own a Weaver scope, order a Weaver K2.5 complete with the Royden Cant Indicator for $47.25; a K4 for $54.75, or a K6 for $58.25. All orders or inquiries should be addressed to Royden Instrument and Research Corp., Box 2285, Reno, Nevada. Dealers who do not already carry the Royden Cant Indicator may write inquiries to this same address.

There is no cost to the "A" club for NRA affiliation and there is an actual financial saving. "A" club members remit their NRA dues all at one time and pay only $2.50 per year membership dues. No club dues are paid to the NRA. It is not required that all members of the club be NRA members; however, only NRA members may vote, hold office or represent the club in NRA competition.

The Class "B" type of NRA club represents organizations whose basic purpose is some activity other than shooting but who maintain rifle and pistol shooting as a sub-

NEW 1948
TACKLE & GUN CATALOG
READY FREE!

30/06 SPRINGFIELD MODEL M1903 RIFLES



Semi pistol grip, remodeled fore end and hand guard with new 1¼ in. sling strap \$89.50

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Reg. \$8.95 stocks slightly irregular; require a little more hand finishing for a beautiful stock. For Springfield, Enfield, Krag and Mauser \$6.95

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12 ga. Expert Shells. 100 for \$5.00

NEW SMITH & WESSON Military and Police Revolvers

38 Special; 2, 4, 5 or 6 in. barrels. Reg. price \$56.50. Sale Price \$52.50

New SMITH & WESSON TARGET REVOLVER

K22 Masterpiece. Reg. price \$65.00. Sale Price \$59.95

NEW HIGH STANDARD PISTOL

Model HD; 22 automatic; 4½ or 6¾ in. Barrel. Reg. Price \$51.17, Sale Price \$47.50

NEW COLT PISTOLS

38 Super or 45 Gov't. Automatic \$65.00

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Denver made; all leather \$2.95

NEW FRENCH 8X PRISM BINOCULARS

Former Price \$49.50. Complete with leather case NOW \$29.95

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Made of very high grade, extra heavy #4 waterproof duck, with strong puckering cord passing through grommets. Quality and workmanship are the very best. Low price is made possible through the fact that it is a new Government gun cover, which we have converted into a motor cover. Size, to fit all motors up to and including 10 horsepower. Price, \$1.55 postpaid. Send for free sample and catalog.

Price \$1.55 Postpaid

L. L. Bean, Inc., Freeport, Maine
Owned and Operated by L. L. Bean and family
Mfrs. Fishing and Camping Specialties

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Enfields, Springfields and Mausers made into sporting rifles. Custom barrel work. Your Win. 52 made into sporter to your specifications. We are familiar with the needs of target shooters and can handle your work promptly. Write for price list.

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• For match precision target shooting, the 1⅝" and the 1¼"—powers from 6X to 30X.

• For small game, the Woodchucker in 4.5, 5.5 and 7X.

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\$1.00 Kit...Removes grease, penetrates rust, leaves a satin blue-black finish. Takes minutes, not hours. Kit includes Gun Blue, cotton, Crocus cloth and steel wool. Ask your dealer...or write for folder.

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THE "PEQUOT" SELF-LEVELING GUN RACK

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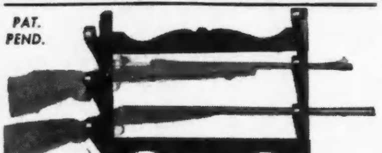

SELF-LEVELING—No matter what type of gun, it drops into natural horizontal position in this rack. The "PEQUOT" adds attractiveness to den, living room, hall or foyer. Holds up to 4 guns. Just the thing for every gun owner, \$7.95 prepaid, check or money order, 6 gun size—\$10.95. Made of selected finely grained cherry, hand rubbed walnut finish. Both husband and wife will agree the PEQUOT adds grace and distinction to any room.

THE NIMROD COMPANY
(A Division of George Marnhout Co.)
Dept. R-78, 1701 Arch St. Philadelphia 3, Pa.

ordinate activity. The best examples of Class "B" clubs are Conservation and Wild Life groups, American Legion and VFW Posts and large industrial employees recreation organizations. Class "B" clubs are all subsidiaries of some such parent group. Their membership is restricted to members of the parent organization and they do not receive the special membership rate extended to "A" clubs. "B" clubs pay \$70.00 per year annual NRA dues plus an original charter fee of \$10.00.

Because the "A" club type of organization is financially advantageous and more generally popular, clubs are not required to affiliate as Class "B" even though they may be a subsidiary of a parent organization. Also any existing Class "B" club is welcome to change to the "A" type of affiliation at any time. The procedure is simple and the necessary forms are available from NRA Headquarters on request.

HOWARD EMERSON DIES

Howard Dunbar Emerson, 51, well-known west coast rifle instructor, died May 20, 1948,

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in Long Beach, California. Mr. Emerson was gassed in the first World War. He never fully recovered from its effects and it finally caused his death this year.

The California rifle instructor first became interested in rifle shooting in 1932 and he will be remembered for his work among junior shooters before and during World War II.

Mr. Emerson was a Past Commander of the Blue Devils American Legion Post of Los Angeles, captain of the American Legion Blue team at Camp Perry in 1940, member of the President's Hundred in 1939, a Sergeant in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Reserve, a Shriner and Knight Templar.

Interment was in the Veteran's National Cemetery at the Soldier's Home, Sawtelle, Calif.

He is survived by his widow, Gladys Emerson.

COMING EVENTS

Regional Championship Tournaments (Class A) and State or Division Championships (Class B) only are listed below. All other N.R.A. Registered Tournaments are listed in a printed schedule that will be sent to any shooter on request. Send your request by letter or penny postcard to the National Rifle Association, Competitions Section, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Tournaments requiring advance entries are indicated by (Adv.). Tournaments limiting the number of entries that can be accepted are indicated by (Ltd.).

Preliminary Olympic Team tryouts are planned for those tournaments marked (Oly.).

Always send for a program in advance of any Registered Tournament you plan to attend. It is your assurance that you will know all of the details and all of the match conditions.

ALABAMA

October 16-17 (B)—Tenth Annual Alabama State Rifle Championship, Birmingham. C. C. Jones, 1139-16th Ave., So. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

ARKANSAS

July 17-18 (B)—State .30 Caliber Championship, Camp Robinson. Frank R. Allen, Jr., 1810 Allis, Little Rock. **(Adv.)**

October 2-3 (B)—Sixth Annual Arkansas State Rifle Association Small Bore Rifle, Camp Robinson. M. F. Fiske, 212 East 17th St., North Little Rock. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

CALIFORNIA

August 28-29 (B)—Northern California Championship, Richmond. Chilton DeWitt, 3701 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. **(Adv.)**

October 15-16-17 (A)—Pacific Coast Pistol Regional, San Francisco. E. J. Dutil, 324-16th Ave.

COLORADO

July 3-4 (A)—Rocky Mountain Small Bore Rifle Regional Camp George West. L. F. Markle, 1006 Olive Street, Denver. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**

CONNECTICUT

July 9-10-11 (A)—Northeastern Small Bore Regional, East Wallingford. J. Russell Lent, Middlefield. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

October 2-3 (B)—Connecticut Valley Pistol Championship, Rocky Hill. G. G. Ledder, P. O. Box 19. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

FLORIDA

July 3-4—Preliminary Olympic Small-Bore Tryout, M. E. Johnston, 315 Taylor Ave., So., St. Petersburg. **(Oly.)**

ILLINOIS

September 12 (B)—Illinois State Rifle Association Small Bore Championships. Michael Gawron, 2814 N. Christiana Ave., Chicago.

October 3 (B)—Illinois State Pistol Matches, Bensenville. Michael Gawron, 2814 N. Christiana Avenue, Chicago. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

IOWA

September 18-19 (B)—Iowa State Rifle Association Class B Small Bore, Des Moines. Des Moines Rifle and Revolver Club, Box 1395.

LOUISIANA

July 2-3-4 (A)—Southwestern Pistol Regional, Shreveport. J. Howell Flournoy, 199 Preston St. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

July 31-August 1(B)—Louisiana State Small Bore, Monroe. Evans Ethridge, P. O. Box 590.

MAINE

July 24-25 (B)—14th Annual Small Bore Rifle Tournament, Damariscotta. Ralph A. Wagg, R.F.D. #1-A, Auburn.

MARYLAND

August 29 (B)—Mid-Summer Small Bore Tournament, Randallstown. E. W. Stockhausen, 4614 Marble Hall Road, Baltimore. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

September 19 (B)—Maryland State Small Bore

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2	.855	13/16	20	.8595	3-5/16	1.095	15
5	1.250	3/4	20	1.2495	3-9/32	1.452	10
4	.950	13/16	20	.9495	3	1.150	10

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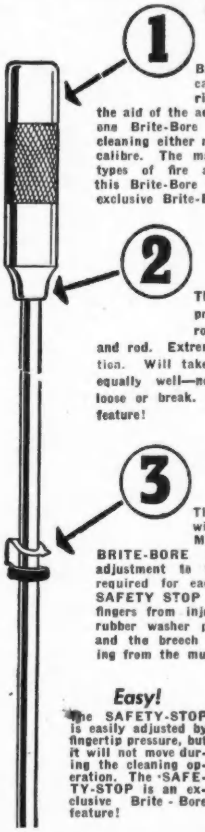

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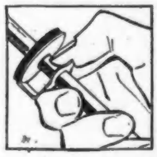

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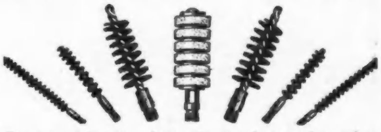

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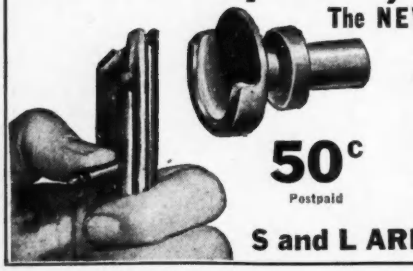

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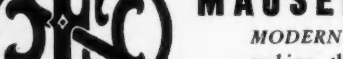

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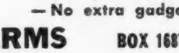

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MICHIGAN

September 5-6 (B)—Class B Pistol Tournament, Ann Arbor. Lt. H. G. Schulpe, Ann Arbor Police Department.

October 9-10 (B)—Michigan State Pistol Championship. Milford. Lewis C. Sanderson, 3075 Hickory Ridge Road, R. R. #4.

MINNESOTA

August 22 (B)—Minnesota State Championship Outdoor Pistol. Art W. Gernaud, Box 289, Willmar.

MISSOURI

July 16-17-18 (A)—Middle States Pistol Regional, St. Louis. Frank Stubits, 5507 Lisette Avenue. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

July 24-25 (B)—Missouri State Small Bore Championship, Warrensburg. R. H. Dorian, 4020 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City. [Date changed from June 12-13]

MONTANA

July 4-5—Preliminary Olympic Small-Bore Tryout. Fred Mesenko, 700 Oak St., Anaconda. **(Oly.)**

NEW MEXICO

July 4—Preliminary Olympic Small Bore Tryout. James Cullender, Box 574, Roswell.

NEW YORK

July 3-4 (B)—Dutchess County Championship Pistol Tournament, Poughkeepsie. Mrs. Martha W. Strahan, 30 Arnold Blvd.

August 14-15 (B)—New York State Rifle Championship, Bethpage, L. I. V. B. Cleaver, P. O. Box 356, Hicksville.

September 4-5 (A)—Northeastern Pistol Regional, Poughkeepsie. Martin W. Strahan, 30 Arnold Blvd. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

OHIO

July 31, August 1 (B)—Ohio State .30 Caliber Championships, Camp Perry. Ray T. Bayless, 7301 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 3.

September 18-19 (B)—20th Annual Ohio Pistol Championships Columbus. Cpl. A. L. Schmieg, 1117 E. Broad Street. **(Adv.)**

October 9-10 (B)—Ohio State Outdoor Team Matches, Mt. Gilead. John R. Lang, 3498 Meadow Avenue. Cincinnati. **(Adv.)**

OKLAHOMA

July 10-11 (B)—Oklahoma .30 Caliber Championships, Claremore. Ernest M. Fuller, 207 South Toledo, Tulsa. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

July 24-25 (B)—Oklahoma State Pistol Championships, Tulsa. Ernest M. Fuller, 207 South Toledo. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

September 11-12 (B)—Oklahoma State Small Bore Championships, Tulsa. Ernest M. Fuller, 207 South Toledo. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

October 23-24 (B)—Oil Capitol Fall Small Bore Tournament, Tulsa. Don P. Young, 216 East Archer. **(Adv.)**

PENNSYLVANIA

July 4-5 (A)—Eastern Small Bore Regional, Altoona. John E. Kaylor, 709 Fourth Avenue, Juniata. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**

August 7-8 (B)—Pennsylvania State Rifle Championship, Altoona. R. B. Barry, 407 2nd Avenue. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

September 25-26 (B)—Pennsylvania State Pistol Championship, Harrisburg. W. K. Van Horn. c/o A-MP, 323 South Cameron Street. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

TEXAS

October 9-10 (B)—Ada Zilker Robinson Match, Austin. Joe B. Taylor, 1204 W. 10th Street.

VERMONT

July 25 (B)—9th Annual Vermont State Pistol and Revolver Tournament, Northfield. Louis B. Tims, 4 Wilder Street, Montpelier. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

September 11-12 (B)—Vermont State Small Bore Tournament, Woodstock. Forrest Quinn.

VIRGINIA

July 2—Preliminary Olympic Free Rifle Tryout. Capt. H. J. Thomas, Quarters 431, Marine Base, Quantico.

July 3-4-5 (A)—Eastern Pistol Regional, Quantico. Captain H. J. Thomas, Quarters 431, Marine Base. **(Adv.-Ltd.-Oly.)**

WASHINGTON

July 4—Preliminary Olympic Pistol and Free Rifle Tryout. C. M. Styer, 120 W. Hudson St., Seattle. **(Oly.)**

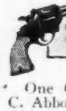
July 10-11 (A)—Pacific Northwest Pistol Regional, South Bend. Malcolm B. Edwards, P.O. Box 252. **(Adv.-Ltd.)**

WEST VIRGINIA

September 5-6 (B)—Eleventh Annual Mountain State Pistol, Parkersburg. R. A. Simpson, 212 W. 10th St.

WISCONSIN

August 7-8 (B)—14th Annual Wisconsin State Rifle Tournament, Racine. Dexter F. Rhodes, 3828 West Sheridan Ave., Milwaukee.



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FREE RIFLE SHOOTING

Many questions have been asked recently about free rifle shooting. Here are some of the answers.

The initiation of the United States in the game of free rifle shooting came in 1913 when we held the International Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, and were roundly trounced by Switzerland. The Swiss rolled up a score of 4959 out of a possible 6000 points, while we took third place with 4578.

The matches are fired under the rules of the International Shooting Union, at a distance of 300 meters, which is 328 yards and 3 inches. This is just about one and one-half times the length of the average city block, which is generally taken to be 8 to the mile or 220 yards.

The International target has a ten-ring 10 centimeters in diameter, or 3.94 inches. Try shooting at an orange a block and a half away, from the off-hand position, and you will get an idea of how easy the International ten-ring is to hit.

The ten-ring has other rings around it, each being 10 cm. greater in diameter, and numbered from 9 to 1. Rings from 10 to 6 inclusive are blacked to form an aiming bull, which is 60 cm., or 23.6 inches in diameter.

Free rifle means free of all restrictions as to trigger pull, etc. The official rule regarding rifles is as follows: "Article 25. All arms will be admitted providing they are examined and passed as safe and the following reservations are observed:

> Optical glasses placed on the rifle are forbidden; the caliber should in no case exceed 9 mm., or the weight, all accessories inclusive, be more than 9 kilos.; and every competitor must fire with the same rifle from each of the three positions."

It will be noted that the caliber cannot be more than 9 mm., which is .354 inch; and that the weight must be not over 9 kilos., or 19 pounds, 13.4 ounces. Under this rule, set triggers are permitted, as well as palm rests (for off-hand only), and adjustable butt plates. The sling is permitted for shooting kneeling, and prone, but not standing.

Owing to the tricky nature of the set trigger, the practice is to set the trigger with the muzzle of the gun resting on the rail when using the standing position, or with the butt touching the ground if kneeling or prone. If an accidental shot occurs, it does not count as long as the rifle has not left the support. Article 11 covers this point in the following words:

"Every shot fired, the rifle, pistol or revolver having left the object by which it was supported—(i.e., palisade or ground), will count."

Under International rules the shooting is done from a covered firing point which protects the shooter from wind and rain.

Both individual and team matches consist of 40 shots standing, off hand; 40 shots kneeling; and 40 shots prone. Ten sighters are allowed in each position. The time limit is 6 hours 30 minutes for each shooter.

A competitor in the free rifle game cannot afford to be too sensitive or temperamental, for in the foreign countries in which these matches are usually shot a variety of strange conditions are likely to be met with which could seriously disconcert an individual whose disposition was poorly suited to the shooting game. After having been captain of one International team abroad and member of three others, the writer feels that no matter how well a shooter can hold, sight, and squeeze, he can never be a first rate marksman unless he can disregard minor annoyances and strange conditions. I have seen free rifle matches in which prone shooting had to be done from high narrow benches at right angles to the firing line. The kneeling was from a sort of table on a lower level which was revealed when a hinged portion of the bench was turned back. This in turn was hinged out of the way to provide a little cage for the shooter to occupy when shooting from the standing position. All this would be very disconcerting to a temperamental shooter, but we had to put up with it, though we did manage to have the benches rearranged so our shooters could lie at the usual angle to the line of fire.

A free rifle team has five members and as each man fires 120 shots the total score possible is 6000. Though we started in this game at Camp Perry in 1913 by getting ourselves licked by the Swiss, we staged a comeback when we next entered at Lyon in 1921, and won the match with a score of 5015. In Milan in 1922 we again won, 5132.

On our home grounds at Camp Perry in 1913, with no other competitors we were a lonely first with a new world's record of 5301 points and we won again at Rheims in 1924 with 5284 points. But by this time the Swiss were getting really provoked and we no longer found the pickings easy, as the following record will show:

1925 St. Gall, Switzerland
First Place—Switzerland, 5386
Second—U. S., 5255
1926 No matches
1927 Rome, Italy
First Place—Switzerland, 5395
Third—U. S., 5271
1928 Loosduinen, Netherlands
First Place—Switzerland, 5391
Third—U. S., 5339
1929 No matches
1930 Antwerp, Belgium
First Place—U. S., 5441
Second—Switzerland, 5407

In 1930, with World's Championship and a new record, we decided to drop out of the free rifle game, because of the lack of interest among American shooters.

With the Olympics to be held in London this year we again enter the free rifle arena, though not with a team, as the Olympic competition in this field is limited to 3 individual shooters.—J.S.H.

MODIFIED SPRINGFIELD STOCK

Early in World War II the specifications for the so-called 'type C' M1903 rifle stock were relaxed enough to permit the use of a large supply of undersized blanks. The scant blanks were shaped roughly through the use of the old pilot models which had the full pistol grip. The wartime modifications were then dressed down by filing to produce the unusual effect pictured below.

Unfortunately the War Department never got around to giving an official name to the newcomer so we will string along with their nickname of 'scant semi-pistol-grip stock.'

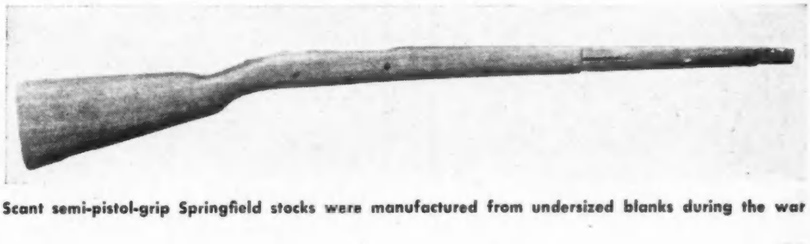
This information and photograph should be of use to surplus rifle stock advertisers and customers to prevent misunderstandings.—J. S. R.

FORM-FITTING TOP PUNCH

The handloader who casts several designs of bullets in a single caliber soon discovers that the top punch of his sizer-lubricator will press a ring into the ogive of any bullet which does not precisely fit the punch's cavity. Such compression of the alloy mars the appearance of the assembled cartridge, and it might conceivably affect the bullet's flight. Elimination of this fault appears to depend on using a special top punch for each nose design.

But special top punches are not absolutely necessary. One top punch can be made to receive perfectly the nose of any cast bullet in the caliber—round nose, flat nose, spitzer, or hollow point.

To prepare the top punch for special use, remove it from the machine and hold it by its stem, cavity up, in vise jaws. Have at hand a bullet of the type to be fitted, its fore-section very lightly oiled. Turn the flame of a small torch on the punch and bring the metal to scorching heat, no more. Melt a small quantity of Dennison's sealing wax



Scant semi-pistol-grip Springfield stocks were manufactured from undersized blanks during the war

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IF YOU desire a new shotgun, your dealer will order it factory equipped with the Compensator. See your dealer or write us about equipping your present shotgun. Comp and one tube, wrench and Lyman Silver Bead Front Sight, $14.85. Additional tubes, $2.95.

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(No. 2 American Ex.) into the hot punch cavity and then, while the wax is entirely plastic, place the oiled nose of the bullet squarely into the cavity. Hold the bullet in place until the wax is then set, providing a perfect fit for the bullet's nose. There is also a circle of wax that protects the alloy from the cutting rim of the punch.

A top punch prepared in the foregoing manner will serve in sizing hundreds of bullets. Although sealing wax is a rather brittle substance, it remains in place surprisingly well because, in use, it receives uniform pressure over its entire surface. Recently a top punch so prepared by the writer withstood the unusual strain of sizing and lubricating over five hundred 195-grain .30-caliber gas-check Ideal 308334 bullets.—ELLIS CHRISTIAN LENZ, Canton, Ohio.

PARLOR GUN LOADS

A lot is heard about the German Schuetzen 'parlor' rifles, particularly that 'they are good only for hanging on the wall.' This is not so. I have a silver-mounted beauty that I shoot all the time.

It is easy and cheap to fix one so it will shoot. Make a new loose-fitting chamber suitable for large rifle primers. Grind a center-fire pin on the present firing pin. Then make a swage for .177 air rifle pellets and size them to .170 caliber.

I use Winchester 120 primers—no powder is needed—which give ¼-inch groups at 20 feet with iron sights. Hotter primers will blow the tops off the pellets. I use Benjamin 9-grain slugs. No lubricant is needed.—CHARLES G. GOFF, Ontario, Calif.

CONVERTING THE 6.5 JAP

I am writing this in the hope that owners of 6.5 Jap rifles may be able to have them converted to usable rifles and also to recommend the work of R. W. Lathrop of the Gun Shop, 110 Broadway, North Seattle, Washington. Mr. Lathrop rechambered my long barrel 6.5 Arisaka to use the .257 Roberts case with 6.5 mm. bullet. The bolt handle was cut off and repositioned for a scope. A Redfield Junior mount with a Weaver 330 scope was mounted on the gun. The trigger pull was smoothed up.

The load used was the 129-grain Modern Gunshop bullet and 36 grains of 4895 powder in Remington .257 cases with the Remington 8½ primer. The velocity in this long barrel is about 2750 f.p.s. The load gave no indication of pressure or brass distortion. I believe this conversion offers the answer for a good 6.5 Jap rifle, as good .257 brass and 6.5 bullets are readily available.—CLARENCE S. BRAMMER, Martinsdale, Mont.

Answer: That is a good solution for users of Jap rifles who want to do their own handloading. A similar rechambering job can be done by P. O. Ackley of Trinidad, Colo., or Larry Flannery of Eagle Point, Oregon. Reloading dies are obtainable from the R.C.B.S. Co., Oroville, Calif.

For those who do not want to do their own reloading: 6.5 mm. Jap loads, made from resized and turned down .30-'06 cases, can be obtained from J. G. Wilkinson, 1209 Lincoln Ave., Peoria 6, Illinois. Mr. Wilkinson can also furnish primed or unprimed cases for the Jap 6.5.—A. H. B.

QUESTION ON STOCKING

I find myself in the middle of a hot argument about gunstocking and need some help. Are all high-powered rifles (including military rifles) stocked with free-floating barrels or are some barrels fully bedded in the forearm of the stock? If both methods are used which is the better?—WILLIAM J. JULIANA, El Paso, Texas.

Answer: Both methods of stocking barrels are used but the best results for accuracy are obtained when the barrel is relieved along most of the forearm, with the tip pressing upon the bottom of the barrel with pressure sufficient to require six to ten pounds pull to get the barrel away from the forearm.—J. S. H.

DOCKENDORFF GUN SIGHTS

Dockendorff & Co., Oronoque, Conn., makes a complete line of gold crosswire and bead front sights which are becoming quite popular for use on hunting rifles. The beads come in three sizes: .060-, .070-, and .077-inch diameter. These are designed for use with open rear sights, but the gold crosswire is best with aperture rear sights. Both bead and crosswires are slanted back at an angle of 15 degrees for even, constant lighting. All sights are fitted with a sliding cover so that light can enter from the top as well as from the front and rear, making the sights practical for any kind of shooting.

These sights were designed primarily for use on hunting rifles, but they are practical on target arms. We have had many groups of 1½ inches or less at 100 yards using the standard 100-yard target. Dockendorff & Co. can furnish a chart listing the various sight models for use on most any type of rifle, including special models for Enfields, Springfields, Mausers, and target arms.—A. H. B.

OFF-SET TELESCOPE SIGHT

The other evening, at a meeting of the local rod and gun club, we got in a discussion regarding telescope sights. One of the members claimed to have seen some rifles belonging to a famous big-game hunter and said that the telescope sights were mounted off-center, in other words to the left of the barrel. It doesn't seem logical to me as it would appear to make for an uncomfortable shooting position since the cheek would not rest firmly against the stock, as a result placing the shooter in an unsteady position. Can you settle this for us?—THOMAS M. FLEMING, JR., Roscoe, N. Y.

Answer: There have been a number of rifles fitted with telescopes mounted off-center. The reason is usually to permit clip loading or top ejection without interference by the telescope. As you say, it makes for an uncomfortable shooting position, hence it is usual to employ a cheekpiece on the stock of such guns to push the eye over to the correct position.—J. S. H.

VISSING SCOPE COVERS

The Vissing waterproof scope covers, with hinged lids on both ends of the scope that can be automatically swung up out of the way instantly when a quick shot is possible, should be of more than passing interest to hunters who use scopes on their rifles in bad weather.

While the front and rear housing assembly may detract from the appearance of the scope, these are probably the most practical covers that can be had. An adjustable push rod is connected to the front and rear housing assemblies so that a sudden push with the left thumb on the thumb button cover release, which is located on the left side of the front housing assembly, releases both covers simultaneously.—A. H. B.

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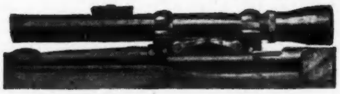

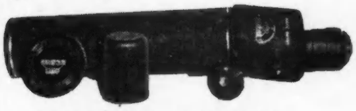

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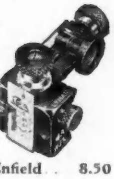

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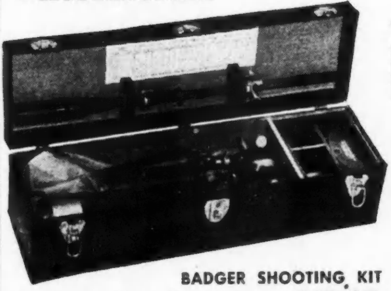

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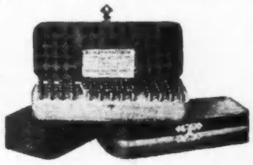

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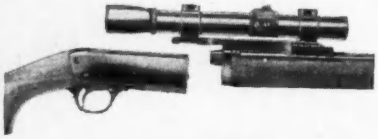

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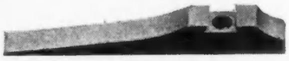

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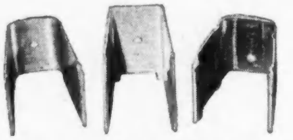

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.30-'06 LOADS

Will you kindly give me information regarding the best load for my Springfield with 180-grain, 150-grain bullets, and 172-grain National Match bullets. I do not care for the maximum load, since I would rather use a grain or two less and get better accuracy.

I recently bought empty cases for my .30-'06 that are marked "RA 45" on the head. The cases are primed and the primer looks very much like the F. A. type. Are they like the old F. A. primers or are they modern "N.C." primers?—ALEXANDER N. DAVIES, Powassan, Ontario, Canada.

Answer: When working up a load I use the Ideal or Belding & Mull Handbooks as a guide and stay several grains under maximum, which usually gives fine accuracy. Surely you have one of these handy and can dig those same loads out of it. Start at least 3 or 4 grains under the recommended maximum and work up to an accurate combination. Possibly No. 4064 powder would be your best bet, especially with the 180-grain bullet.

The cases you purchased were made by Remington Arms Co., in 1945. If made for the Government they will have the old corrosive chlorate, but nonmercuric, primers and the cases will be perfectly OK for reloading purposes.

One of the best loads I have tried with 150-grain bullets is 51 and 52 grains of No. 3031 powder. With the 180-grain I had good results with 49 to 50 grains of No. 4064 powder.—A. H. B.

REVERSED BULLET LOADS

Dr. Chester C. Cook sent in some excellent dope on his experiments with bullets fired base first. Many other handloaders have used reversed bullets, but the Doctor's comments are quite interesting.

One of his favorites is the 150-grain M2 bullet reversed, with a charge of 49 grains of No. 4985 powder. After firing through a cake of soap and a bundle of newspapers, the recovered bullets show wonderful expansion with the jacket peeled back over the lead core. Accuracy with the M2 bullet was better when fired base first.

Similar tests have been made in the 9 mm. P-38, .45 A.C.P., and .45 auto rim. For the .45 auto rim, cases are made from the .30-40 Krag and .44-40 Winchester. For the 9 mm., the .351 Winchester cases are revamped and shortened. He says they work very well. The reversed bullets feed reasonably well through the magazines of the P-38 and .45 auto.

Anyone using reversed bullets should start well under maximum recommended powder loads and work up to heavier charges. —A. H. B.

FOREIGN AMMUNITION AVAILABLE

Ammunition for many foreign rifles is being imported from Sweden by Ashton & Company, 707 So. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif. One caliber is the 6.5 X 55 mm., the standard military cartridge used by Norway and Sweden. This cartridge is good for use in rechambered 6.5 mm. Jap rifles. The rechambering for the longer and larger diameter case cleans up the loose Jap chamber. The rifle we tried, sent in by Fred A. Scheurer of Pasadena, was rechambered by Sports Supply of California, Box 396, Montrose, Calif.

The rifle shot very well with the 'Norma'

160-grain soft-point load, but was erratic with the special 139-grain boattail match 6.5 x 55 mm. The latter is supposed to be one of the most accurate European cartridges. The 194-grain 8 mm. soft-point load performed exceptionally well in a standard Mauser military rifle.

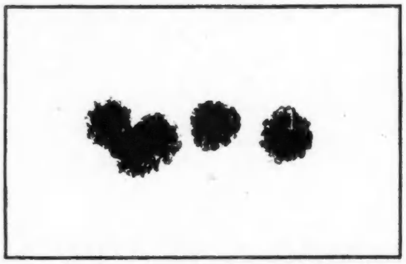
A variety of ammunition is available from Ashton & Company and more calibers will be added as soon as possible. Even bullets and Berdan primers and decapping tools are to be available soon.—A. H. B.

ACCURACY OF 4895

I have heard complaints on Uncle Sam's IMR 4895 powder. When I got some of the DCM pulled boattail bullets I loaded 37 grains of this powder with Winchester No. 120 primers and, with my restocked Enfield and a K6 Weaver Scope, made the enclosed group at 100 yards, shooting from a bench rest. The 5-shot group measures about 1 1/16 inches.

I've shot several groups under 2 inches but this is the best I've made. I can generally get 3 or 4 in an inch but the others wander out.

When a powder will group like this it is good enough for my money especially when you buy around five pounds of No. 4895 for the price of one pound of commercial powder.—R. H. Rinkleib, Burbank, Calif.



Using loads of 172-grain boattail bullets and 37 grains of IMR 4895 powder, R. H. Rinkleib made this five shot group at 100 yards from a bench rest. It measures 1-1/16 inches.

M-1 AMMUNITION IN GARAND RIFLE

At the Marine rifle range at Camp Mathews in January, 1944, I was told we were using M-1 ammunition in our Garand rifles. A friend states that the M-1 ammunition would be much too powerful for the rifle. Can you set us straight on this?—Floyd L. Porter, Dubois, Wyo.

Answer: .30 caliber M-1 ball ammunition was adopted in 1925 in order to extend the extreme range of machine gun fire. It uses a 172-grain boattail bullet with a muzzle velocity of 2600 feet per second and an extreme range of 5500 yards.

When this ammunition came into general use it was found that the range was too great for the various National Guard ranges throughout the country. Accordingly, the .30 caliber M-2 ammunition was adopted and the M-1 was made obsolete. The .30 caliber M-2 ammunition has a 152-grain flat-base bullet with 2805 feet per second muzzle velocity and an extreme range of 3500 yards.

The M-1 rifle was developed and designed for use with the M-1 ammunition and will function equally well with the M-1 or the M-2 ammunition.—J. S. H.

M1 BULLETS ALTERED TO SOFT POINTS

The M1 boattail is frequently hollow pointed and used for hunting purposes, but

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See Page 76

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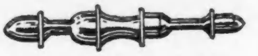

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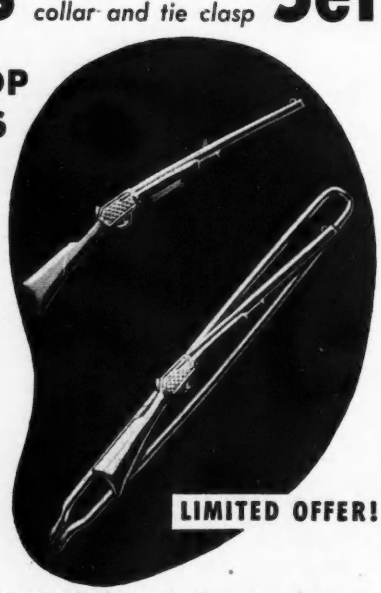

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Mark W. Mairich of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, goes even farther, and with good results too. First the bullet point is cut off, a cavity drilled, and the mouth of the cavity beveled or countersunk. Then molten lead is used to fill the cavity and make a soft point. Final operation is to finish for outside appearance.

This sounds like a lot of work, but these bullets ahead of 48.5 grains I.M.R. 4895 powder really shoot. All 10 shots went in 1.72 inches with 9 in 1.43 inches at 100 yards. All 10 went in 2⅝ inches at 200 yards.—A. H. B.

.35 WINCHESTER CASE SUBSTITUTE

I noticed the suggestion in THE RIFLEMAN for September, 1947, in regard to using the .30-40 case as a substitute for the .35 W.C.F., now very hard to obtain. Just how well it would feed through the magazine of the 1895 action, I do not know. The case works quite well in my single-shot rifle built on a Farquharson action. After firing once in the .35 chamber, these .30-40 cases are about ⅛ inch short of the usual length but I cannot notice any difference in accuracy of the loads. So far I have used such cases mostly with the 250-grain Ideal gas-check bullet and 28 grains of No. 4198, but I have also fired a few with the 250-grain soft-nose bullet and 48 grains of HiVel No. 2, lot No. 203. Nothing unusual happened—no cracked cases nor gas blown back. For my part I will go to almost any length to make up ammunition for my .35, as it is remarkably accurate for a large caliber and has a heavy wallop.

As an example of what else can be made from the .30-40 cases, I have cut them off and resized them to fit the 6.5 mm. Dutch and Romanian Mannlicher (rimless) and the 6.5 Italian Carcano.—FREDERICK W. BECKERT, JR., Pittsburgh, Pa.

GAS-CHECK REVOLVER BULLET

For years the .44 S&W Special cartridge has been considered one of the most powerful for heavy handloads in handguns. But one problem has been bad leading of the barrel. To overcome this Ray C. Thompson, Box 216, Grand Marais, Minn., has designed a gas-check bullet which performs well without giving leading problems. Gordon C. Boser and others who hunt with the handgun have high praise for this bullet, especially in hollow-point form. Leading has been eliminated even with quite heavy hunting loads.

Molds and gas checks are available from Mr. Thompson. Solid bullet No. 431244 weighs 244 grains. The hollow-point, No. 431225, weighs 225 grains.—A. H. B.

MARKINGS ON .30 CALIBER CASES

I have some .30-'06 ammunition with markings I do not understand. Some of them have five lines around the middle of the shell and others have six vertical depressions on the shoulder of the case. Can you tell me why these shells are so marked?—L. EARL MILLER, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Answer: These are guard cartridges. Earlier ones had the five grooves around the middle, and the later ones have six dents in the shoulder.

These were loaded, with 9.1 grains of Bullseye powder and the 150-grain M1906 bullet, to a velocity of 1,200 feet per second.
—J. S. H.

GOOD TIP ON BULLET CASTING

The following tips on bullet casting may be of interest, since I have cast many tons of lead and various alloys into bullets.

For melting the lead or alloy I used a dentist's gas forge. One can get enough heat from such a forge to burn a pot of metal until it is nothing but slag. Had that experience once when I was interrupted by a visitor. The temperature is controlled simply by regulating the flow of gas.

Having brought the mixture to the proper pouring temperature and heated the mold to the point where it takes the cast several seconds to set, the most important factor in the bullet casting process is the flux. The purpose of the flux is not merely to clear the mixture, but to make it more fluid, as it must be for a full and perfect cast. The most efficient flux for this purpose is sal ammoniac; a heaping teaspoonful stirred briskly into a ten-pound pot makes the mixture more fluid—one is tempted to say more liquid—than water. A drop of the mixture spilled on the floor seems to dissipate instantly. When using this flux, the lead or alloy fills the mold so completely that tool marks in the mold show plainly on the surface of the bullet.

If you try this at home, better do it while the "Missus" is out or you'll be in the dog house. It creates a dense white smoke that rolls up to the ceiling and hangs there.—COL. W. A. TEWES, Dania, Florida.

WARNING ON THE USE OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE

In the November 1947 issue of the RIFLEMAN there is a suggestion for the use of carbon tetrachloride as a lubricant for machining operations.

May I call your attention to the fact that this use constitutes a very definite health hazard.

The use of carbon tetrachloride for such purposes was investigated at the plant where I am employed and it was very definitely disapproved, because of the possible health hazard.—WARD RUSSELL MILLER, Brookville, Ohio.

SHIPPING SMOKELESS POWDER

I believe RIFLEMAN readers will be interested to know that I. C. C. Regulations pertaining to the movement of small-arms smokeless powder by express have been changed so that Section 65 (j) (2) page 72 of the Tariff now reads "In tightly closed metal cans *or fibre containers,* not exceeding 1 lb. each packed in outside wooden boxes, specifications 15C, *or outside fibreboard boxes, spec. 12B or 23F.*"

The change is the part in italics. It means that shippers of smokeless powder by express are no longer limited to the use of hard-to-get and expensive wooden boxes. The above appears to be the only change and all the other regulations remain in effect.

This shipping of smokeless powder for small arms is fast developing into a real headache. Last week we had two shipments returned—one from Nassau County, New York, with the notation that the consignee did not have a permit as issued by the State of New York to possess or store explosives. The other was returned from Buffalo, New York, with information that the consignee must have a permit of some kind from the Chief of the Fire Department to have any gunpowder on the premises. Neither shipment was offered to the consignee before it was returned to us, and the consignee had no opportunity of complying with the local law and ordinance.—H. S. HARPER, Mgr., Belding & Mull, Philipsburg, Pa.

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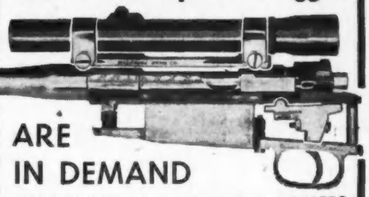

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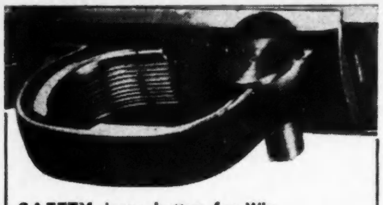

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Answer: We are indebted to Belding and Mull for this information which we are passing along for the benefit of all concerned.

It would pay before ordering gunpowder to check with the authorities regarding any local ordinances covering this matter.—J. S. H.

GUNSMITH SUPPLIES

Of the many selected items for the gunsmith available through The Gunsmith's Mart, Brownell Industries, Inc., Montezuma, Iowa, several relatively new gadgets which we have been using are quite interesting. One of these is Tru-Turn, a so-called poor man's lathe. Small parts such as firing pins can be turned to shape using the Tru-Turn on the drill press table, or with a wood lathe. This handy metal-turning tool comes complete with three cutting bits and collets for ¼, ⅜, and ½ inch round stock. The one I have been using has more than paid for itself in only a few months.

Another handy item is the solid bronze "Bench King" vise. A number of accessories furnished with the vise, such as holding pins and arbors, permit holding without marring the finish, round rings, tubing, discs, balls, half balls, and most any irregular shaped object, for sawing, filing, drilling, tapping, or polishing. These two items get plenty of use in our small workshop.—A. H. B.

ROYDEN CANT INDICATOR

When trying to bag a chuck or crow at a long unknown range or to connect on a big buck across a canyon, down in a valley, or up on a hillside, one important point in rifle shooting is frequently overlooked or disregarded. That point, one among many in addition to range estimation and bullet trajectory, is a matter of canting the rifle to the right or to the left. How important is cant? Mr. Royal A. Vissing of the Royden Instrument and Research Corp., Reno, Nevada, considered it important enough to design a pendulum or cant indicator for use in scope sights. At present it can be installed only in Weaver K2.5, K4, and K6 scopes.

The cant indicator is a pendulum installation in the reticule holder, and it is seen in the top part of the image. When the vertical wire of the cross hairs is perfectly perpendicular the pendulum is at rest and coincides with the wire. When tipping the rifle to the right or left the pendulum is set in motion, giving immediate warning that the rifle is canted. Any tipping of the rifle up to approximately three degrees to the right or left of absolute vertical can be noted.

To determine first hand some of the advantages of the cant indicator, we used a K4 Weaver on several different rifles, including the flat-shooting .220 Swift and the .30-'06. As expected the greatest change in zero when canting the rifle was noted with the lower velocity and higher trajectory of the .30-'06 as compared with the .220 Swift. Even with the '06 at 100 yards, a total of 6 degrees cant did not cause a zero change or increase the group size.

At 300 yards we began to get results. A group was made with the pendulum stationary, in line with the vertical wire. Then with the 3-degree cant there was a point of impact change of exactly 3 inches to the right and to the left of the normal zero, a 6-inch increase in group sizes—enough to miss a small target. The same test with the flat-shooting .220 showed a zero change of 1.5 to 2.45 inches to right and left of normal zero. This increased the total group by 3.95

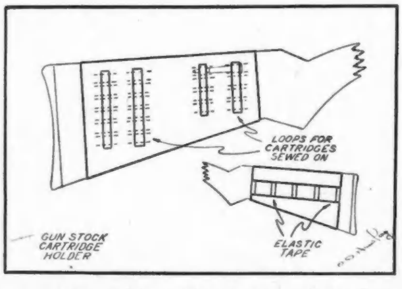
inches at 300 yards, again plenty to miss a small target, although seldom would a rifle be canted as much as 6 degrees total right and left without noticing it.

One advantage of the pendulum for use in scopes mounted on hunting rifles will be noted when shooting at an angle, uphill, or downhill. Many hunters still believe there is some baffling mystery to the up-and-down shooting, but possibly cant is part of the answer. When shooting in hilly, mountainous country there would be a distinct advantage, as under such conditions seldom can the hunter be sure that the rifle is not canted. For short ranges though any reasonable amount of cant can be overlooked.—A. H. B.

CARTRIDGE HOLDER FOR SINGLE-SHOT RIFLE

I got tired of carrying cartridges in my pocket for my 'single shooter' Hornet, so I made a cartridge holder to fit over the stock. Sure, a cartridge belt would hold the shells, but this has the advantage of keeping the shells with the gun. When I pick up the gun now I don't have to search for the ammo.

Here is a drawing of the holder. Mine is made of light canvas, with elastic tape on the back to hold it snug. A higher class job could be made out of leather. The first one I cut out and sewed together on the machine in one afternoon.—O. D. HAWLEY, Denver, Colo.



A cartridge holder which fits around the butt of a rifle may be made from canvas and elastic

SHOOT STICK

To help steady the pistol or revolver which he uses for hunting, H. W. Raney, Milstead, Ala., schemed up the idea of employing a cane—what he calls a 'shoot stick.' This is a tapered piece of hickory with a round knob on the top end which can be carried as a cane.

To use, the knob end is inserted under a tightly drawn belt and held forward at about a 45 degree angle by the left hand. The gun is then rested between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand. For additional support, a small rope or cord can be placed over the left shoulder and under the right arm, the ends being gripped by the left hand which supports the stick. With a little practice this gadget can be used to good advantage.—A. H. B.

NEW DOUBLE-WIDTH SHOOTING PAD

The rainy and chilly Washington weather this spring has given me excellent opportunity to put the Prone Shooting Pad being sold by Good Home Stores, Inc., to test. A few days ago I had it on cold damp ground all day and, as far as my underside was concerned, shot prone with comfort. The hair

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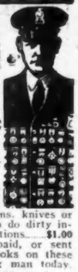

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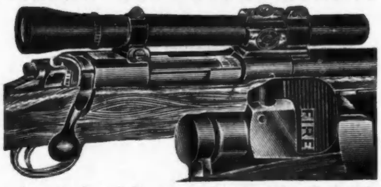

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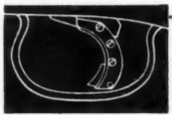

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filling seemed to provide insulation and at the same time keep the feeling of dampness from penetrating.

My first reaction was that the pad is too wide and one of single width would be sufficiently large. After using it, my opinion has changed. The double width gives plenty of room in which to roll around and find the best position without having to get up and shift the pad.

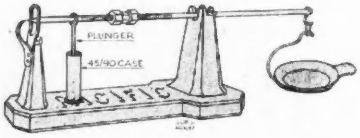
The pad, which can be purchased in green, blue, maroon, or yellow, should add a little color to the usually drab firing lines.

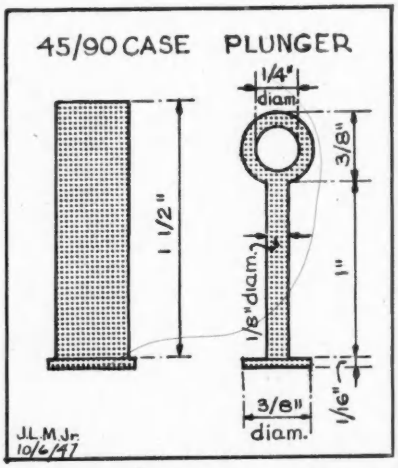
For carrying, the pad rolls up into a neat package and fastens by buckling the straps which are sewed on to it. A carrying handle, also sewed to the pad, presents itself after the pad is rolled up.

The Good Home Stores, Inc., 18 West Chelten Ave., Philadelphia 44, Penn., is selling the pad for $14.50—E. B.

PACIFIC SCALE ATTACHMENT

Charles E. Moore, Winchester, Indiana, submits an "anti-bobble" gadget for use on the Pacific scale. At one inch from the pointer end of the beam he fits a plunger which works in a shortened .45-90 cartridge case filled about two-thirds with a light oil. The sketch shows how the gadget is made and how it works.—A. H. B.





A .45-90 cartridge case, filled two-thirds with light oil, makes an excellent anti-bobble gadget for use on the Pacific powder scale

SILENCERS

I am not a great user of firearms except for occasional hunting or target practice. Recently, however, the question of silencers or sound mufflers came up among my friends and I decided to find out something about them. A check with firearm stores revealed almost nothing except that they are unobtainable, some saying they are not allowed in the state, others saying there is a federal statute prohibiting their possession. As my desire was more for technical information than for purchase (I'd still like to see one), I immediately sought out every text on rifles, pistols, and guns available. Aside from the barest references to Maxim my search uncovered nothing. This nettled my curiosity all the more, so much so in fact that I am taking the liberty of putting my questions directly to the National Rifle Association.

1. What is the law regarding the use of silencers other than for hunting, on a range in other words?

2. Is there any law prohibiting its *possession* (and not *use*) as a collector's item?

3. Where may one be obtained legitimately?

4. Where may information on them be secured? (So scarce is it that I am wondering if there is a law against its distribution.)

5. What is the main effect on the flight-path of a bullet fired through a silencer? (I surmise they must cut down efficiency or accuracy somehow, else why aren't they used by the Armed Forces?)

Any information you can give me on this subject will be appreciated.—CARLOS M. RUBIO, Providence, Rhode Island.

Answer: Some forty years ago a silencer for firearms was invented by Maxim and marketed by the Maxim Silent Firearms Co., of New Haven, Conn. These silencers were widely advertised at the time for use on private firearms and were also pushed for Government adoption.

The Army tested them and went so far as to furnish two Springfield rifles fitted with Maxim silencers to each company of infantry.

There were two types tried by the Army, one in which the silencer was permanently screwed on to the front of the barrel and the other in which the silencer was attached to the ordinary rifle by means of a bayonet joint fitted over the front sight.

Back around 1916 I experimented rather extensively with both types of silencers on the Springfield rifle. It was soon found, however, that the silencer was not much good on a high-powered rifle because, although it did kill the noise of the actual discharge of the gun, it could not stop the sharp whip-like crack of the bullet passing through the air at a velocity higher than that of sound.

It was very interesting indeed to fire a Springfield rifle fitted with one of these silencers because the noise of the bullet, no longer hidden by the actual explosion, could be heard very plainly. When the gun was fired over level ground, the bullet noise merely sounded like the tearing of a large sheet of cloth or paper. However, whenever the bullet passed a stationary object such as a post, a fence, or a tree, a sharp report resulted.

Once out in a thinly settled section of a Western state I fired one of these rifles with a silencer down a railroad track. The noise of the bullet passing each one of the telegraph posts in turn sounded like a burst of machine gun fire.

Silencers on .22 caliber rifles can be effective if very low velocity ammunition is used, that is ammunition which has a speed below the velocity of sound. However, since almost all modern .22 caliber ammunition, including shorts, has a velocity higher than sound, silencers are not effective.

So much for history. At present silencers are rarely heard of because, if a silencer were really effective on a gun, it would make an ideal instrument for use by persons who desire to use firearms for unlawful purposes.

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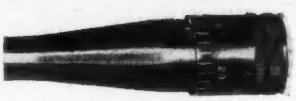

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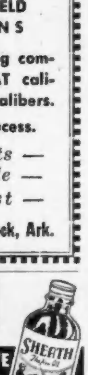

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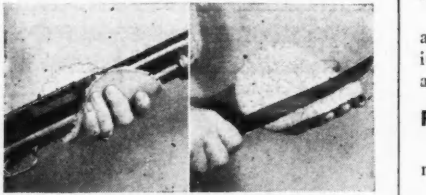

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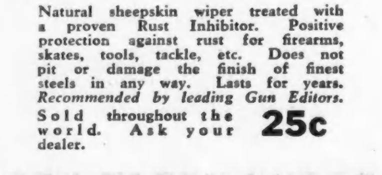

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Accordingly, these instruments were in effect outlawed under the National Firearms Act that was passed some years ago. Under this Act every silencer must be registered with the Internal Revenue Department and each is subject to a $200 tax when transferred from one owner to another. Naturally that requirement put a stop to the manufacture and sale of silencers and none could be obtained at the present time without paying the $200 tax even if they were made. If the owner of the silencer wanted to sell it, the $200 tax would have to be paid and the new owner would have to register it immediately.

There is no law against giving information on silencers as far as I know, but in my different books and articles on firearms I have refrained from giving any information on how they are made because I felt that it would be bad policy. To say the very least, the publishing and dissemination of such information would put an argument in the hands of those who wish to abolish firearms and publications concerning them.

As far as I can tell the presence of a silencer on a gun has no effect at all on the flight of the bullet. The bullet seems to go just as fast, just as far, and just as accurately when the silencer is used as it does when there is no silencer on the gun.

It might be well to remember that, in addition to the federal law, there are laws in some states which make it illegal to own a silencer.—J. S. H.

PRIMER CATCHER FOR PACIFIC

A primer catcher can be made which costs nothing but about 60 seconds of one's time. Simply take a used primer carton and discard the sliding top and wooden insert. Then fasten the little cardboard tray to a flat-surfaced piece of wood with thumb tacks.

With a 13/16-inch wood bit, drill a hole in the center of the tray and the wood base. Then push the tray down over the shell-holder of the Pacific Reloading tool so that it rests on top of the shell-holder housing.

All of the spent primers which fall out of the milled slot in the shell-holder will come to rest in the little cardboard tray. This eliminates strewn primers on the floor and the nuisance of handling with the fingers.—Phil Fine, Baltimore, Md.

DECAPPING CRIMPED-IN PRIMERS

I plan to use empty cases from government ammunition for reloading and have been told the crimped-in primers would break the primer punch on the decapping tool. I would appreciate any help you can give me with this problem.—Norris L. Thompson, Richland, Wash.

Answer: A crimped-in primer can usually be removed with the regular decapping tool without too much trouble except that occasionally the decapping punch will be broken. The only remedy that we know of is to order a couple of extra decapping punches. They are not too expensive and the saving on brass will pay for them in a short time.—J. S. H.

WATCH THAT RUST REMOVER

Upon noticing two small rust spots on my otherwise perfect Luger, I bought a bottle of rust remover which was described on the bottle as a rust resistant, rust remover, and prime coating for a number of items including guns. It did an excellent job of removing the rust and it also very promptly removed the blue. As you can understand I'll never buy another bottle and I believe the company should have had the consideration to state on the bottle that the solution should not be used on blued surfaces.—BRIAN TRUNNELL, Wilmington, Calif.

Answer: As most bluing is a form of oxidation, rust removers will take it off in a hurry. In fact, they seem to take it off faster than they take off the rust.

The best way to treat small rust spots on a blued surface is to rub them with very fine steel wool and some oil.

You may be able to restore that bluing by using Van's Instant Gun Blue, sold by C. S. Van Gordon, Eau Claire, Wis. We find it excellent for touching up very small bright spots on a blued surface.—J. S. H.

TEST FOR CORROSIVE PRIMERS

I recently purchased a large number of primers. I don't know what kind they are since they are unmarked. Is there some way I can test them to see if they are corrosive?

Answer: Prime an empty shell with one of those primers. Put it in your gun. Hold the muzzle a few inches away from a clean steel plate and snap the empty cartridge so the primer residue will be deposited on the plate. Set the plate aside for a few days and if the primer is corrosive you will get a rusty blotch.

Be sure to clean your gun barrel thoroughly with water after this test, and dry the barrel and grease it.—J. S. H.

GOVERNMENT PRIMERS ARE NON-MECURIC

The rumor out here is that the government .30 caliber primed cases which so many of us have ordered are all mecurial primed. If this is so, we all want to remove the mecurial primers and substitute non-mecuric primers.

If you can give us the assurance that these shells are not mecuric, it will set many minds at rest as we all want to save precious brass that is almost unobtainable here in the west. —REV. CHESTER C. COOK, Azuza, Calif.

Answer: In order to permit the fired cartridge cases to be reloaded, the Ordnance Department discontinued the use of mecuric primers in 1899 and has not used any mecuric primers in small arms on regular production since that date.

The primers being sold by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship are loaded with the FA No. 70 primer mixture which was developed by the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. a number of years ago under the name of NF No. 35, the initials NF standing for non-fulminate. The primer mixture contains potassium chlorate, antimony sulphide, lead sulphocyanide, and TNT.—J. S. H.

GOVERNMENT RIFLE BORE CLEANER

Recently there have been several inquiries in the RIFLEMAN and other sporting magazines concerning the cleaning of rifle bores and the removal of primer residue after firing military ammunition. I am wondering why no mention has been made of the "Rifle Bore Cleaner" issued by the Army and currently available to NRA members through the DCM at the nominal price of 24 cents a quart.

I ran across this material during the war when I was Navy Gunnery Officer on the Island of Amchitka in the Aleutians. There was a great deal of laxity about scrubbing the bores out with water, particularly since

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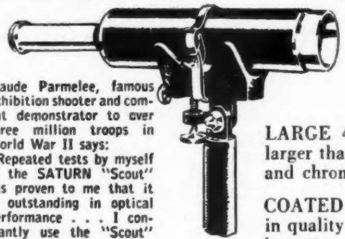

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250/3000 Sav. "Go" or "No Go" sizes, Ea.	6.50
Gun Screw COUNTERBORES: SS Carbon Steel Bores & Pilots special for F.H. Gun Screws	
Size .205 for 6/48 F.H. Gun Screws: Ea.__	1.55
Size .250 for 8/40 F.H. Gun Screws: Ea.__	1.65
—Specify if pilot for Body or Taphole.—	
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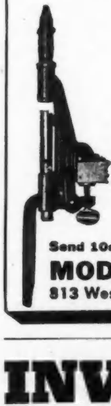

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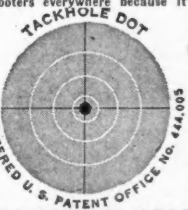
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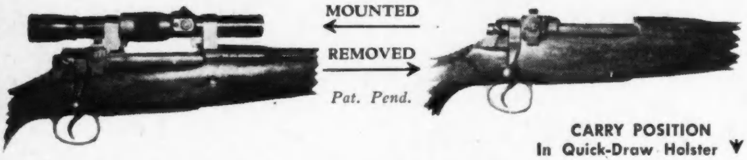

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The only detachable Mount designed to allow the use of conventional sights permanently installed on your rifle. Can be mounted or removed in one second and will return to zero every time. For saddle or other use where scope protection is essential, carry it in our Quick-Draw Shoulder Holster. Get your name in early. All inquiries answered and the work will be handled in the order rifles are received. At present designed only for Enfields—other rifles soon. It will be necessary at present for you to send your rifle to us for Scope installation.

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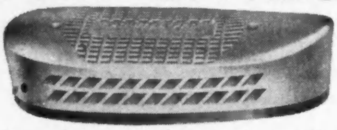

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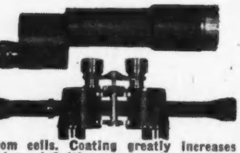

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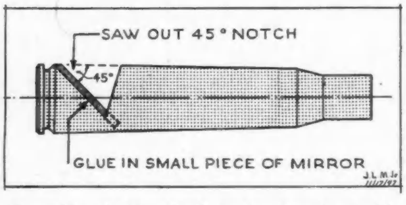
the water had to be carried some distance. The weather there is about as damp as anywhere in the world and constant storms sweep the island with salt spray. Consequently, a rifle bore lightly oiled after firing was sure to rust. The Army Ordnance Officer whom I leaned on heavily for small-arms supplies, suggested that we try bore cleaner and issued us a supply.

His instructions were to run several patches saturated with this material through the bore and follow with dry patches and then an oily patch. We followed this procedure for twenty months and the results were 100 percent satisfactory, in spite of the fact that some of the guns were inadvertently neglected for long periods after being fired and cleaned in the manner described. We usually used five patches on each gun—two for cleaner, two dry, and one for oil.

A fellow member of the Miami Gun Club at Cincinnati, Ohio, took part in the Normandy invasion and lived for several weeks under adverse conditions with only a leather thong, several patches, and a small can of bore cleaner, to use in cleaning his rifle. The bore of his Garand never developed any rust.—Glen E. Thorn, Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

IMPROVISED BORESCOPE

While installing a scope on my Savage Model 99 rifle I found it was necessary to have some sort of device align the scope with the bore. Not having any of the ones now on the market, I made one which has worked well on a number of different types of rifles. As shown by the attached sketch it is made from a .30-'06 case. Merely saw a 45-degree notch forward from the case head with a fine toothed hack saw and glue in a small piece of mirror. The device is then slipped directly into the chamber with the mirror up or to the side. A piece of the mirror from a lady's purse was used. I found I could cut it and shape the oblong piece necessary very easily with a pair of side cutting diagonal pliers.

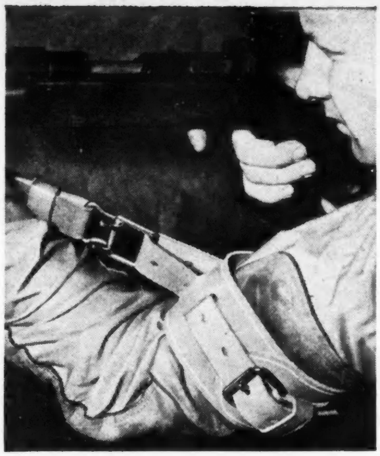


This device has the advantage of staying in place while the gun is being worked on and consequently is always ready to look or sight through. To use it in a .30-'06 chamber, I merely wrap around it a layer or two of tape to hold it back from the receiver ring so that the mirror is visible. A small handle projecting upward which is soldered to the base makes it very easy to slip into and remove from the chamber.—Floyd H. Kellerman, Lansing 6, Mich.

BOND ARM BAND

Sam Bond, 222 Second St., S. W., New Philadelphia, Ohio, is marketing a new arm band designed to prevent slippage and distribute the sling pressure so as to ease strain. He also has a sling for use with his band.

The band proper is three and one quarter inches wide with a strap one and one quarter inches wide sewed to one end. The strap loops around the band and is secured by a heavy brass buckle. The band is adjusted



Sam Bond's arm band and sling

loosely on the arm and drawn tight by the pull of the sling on the strap, which might be called self-adjusting. Once you have determined the appropriate hole for the buckle, it is not necessary to unbuckle the strap to remove the band—all that is necessary for removal is to unhook the sling, push the slack in the strap back through the loops, and the band slides off the sleeve.

At first I wondered if a band of this design would stay in place, but I have used it during my shooting this spring and find that it works beautifully. Best results are obtained when the strap is left slack, not drawn tight. Let the sling pull the strap out about two inches from the band. This leaves the band comfortably snug and it will not slip.

The band sells for $4.50; the sling for $1.50.—E. B.

GUNSMITH TRADE DOPE

C. R. Pederson & Son, Ludington, Mich., are now making sight ramps for Springfield, Enfield, and Mauser in 3/8-inch, 7/16-inch, and 9/16-inch heights. These ramps, fitted for the standard 3/8-inch dovetail sight blocks, are furnished in white or blued with 6 x 48 screws for $2.00 postpaid.

The company has also sent us one of their stockmaker's rasp and file. It is flat on one side and half-round on the other, with coarse teeth on one end and finer teeth on the other. It is a handy tool for shaping the outside of a gunstock and sells at $.59 postpaid.

☆ ☆ ☆

Kenneth E. Clark, Madera, Calif., well-known for his Enfield speed-action jobs, has brought out an Enfield eye shield which serves as a gas deflector for eye protection in case of a ruptured cartridge or punctured primer. There is a long cap for the unaltered bolt and a shorter sleeve for those which have been changed to speed-action or short striker-travel jobs. The metal cap is fastened to the Enfield bolt sleeve by three small screws.

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Gardner & Millspaugh Company, Knightstown, Ind., is furnishing a precision brass hammer with knurled steel handle which is exceptionally handy to have around the shop.

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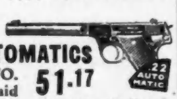

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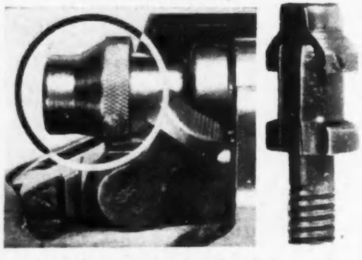

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We have kept one of these hammers on our work bench for some time now and it eliminates the temptation to use a steel hammer, which will mar a finely finished surface, in assembling or disassembling firearms. This hammer has a 3½-ounce brass head firmly screwed on the steel handle and sells for $1.00. Most users will find that in a few months the brass head will become battered. When this occurs an extra head can be purchased for 30 cents.

☆ ☆ ☆

Rochester Lead Works, Inc., 308 Exchange St., Rochester, N. Y., can supply 3/16-inch diameter soft lead wire for .22-caliber bullet making. The process of manufacture insures uniform diameter and density. Minimum quantity available is 25 pounds or more. We find this lead works very well for making bullets in our R.C.B.S. dies.

☆ ☆ ☆

South Bend Lathe Works, 452A East Madison St., South Bend, Ind., are now bringing out some very useful accessories for their well-known lathes, as will be seen in several ads in this issue.

☆ ☆ ☆

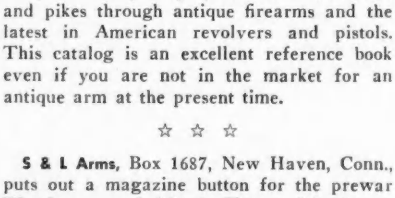
Chicago Wheel and Manufacturing Company, 1101 W. Monroe St., Dept. A.R., Chicago 7, Ill., make the very useful Handee Grinder as well as a full line of mounted wheels and accessories. The Handee Grinder is indispensable around a shop and its usefulness is multiplied many fold by the various items and attachments that can be had for use with it, such as the drill press for using small jewelers drills in the Handee. Anyone interested should write for their free manual.

☆ ☆ ☆

Robert Abels, R860 Lexington Ave., New York 21, N. Y., offers his illustrated 156-page catalog of antique firearms for $.50. This catalog contains line drawings and descriptions and prices of literally hundreds of weapons—everything from swords, lances, and pikes through antique firearms and the latest in American revolvers and pistols. This catalog is an excellent reference book even if you are not in the market for an antique arm at the present time.

☆ ☆ ☆

S & L Arms, Box 1687, New Haven, Conn., puts out a magazine button for the prewar Woodsman and Match Target Woodsman pistols which is quite a handy device. The button has a slot which will receive the rim of a .22 caliber cartridge, giving the thumb an ample and comfortable surface on which to work while compressing the magazine spring for loading.



S & L magazine button for prewar Woodsmans

This new button, costing fifty cents, is quickly and easily installed without tools and remains in place at all times so there are no separate gadgets to become lost or misplaced.

☆ ☆ ☆

Martin B. Retting, West Hurley, N. Y., has issued a very interesting 1948 catalog of modern and antique guns, edged weapons, and war relics. Thousands of items (on hand when the catalog was published) are listed along with descriptions and selling prices. There are many illustrations in this 5½ x 8½-inch, 134-page catalog. Among other items in it are powder flasks, ammunition, and reloading tools for many of the older, obsolete calibers.

☆ ☆ ☆

F. R. Krause, custom reloader located at 305 E. Iron Ave., Albuquerque, N. Mex., has developed quite a few special cartridges for foreign rifles. Among these is the new .270-300 cartridge for use in the Model 99 Savage lever-action rifle. Others are the 9.3 x 74 mm. and 9.3 x 72 mm. made from the .405 Winchester, and the 8 x 50 mm. Austrian made from the .33 W.C.F. case. 8 x 57 mm., 6.5 x 57 mm. and many other cartridges are also available from him.

Loads or reloading tools are also available for these special calibers.

BOOK REVIEWS

RIDGE RUNNER

By Gerald Averill

To my shame I confess I had never heard of Gerald Averill, or at least didn't remember him, when I picked up this book. I started it late at night, with a heavy day of headaches behind me, and with no desire at all to read it, save the knowledge that the Editor of the Rifleman would produce another headache if I didn't deliver the review in the morning.

You may have guessed it. The book kept me up long after I thought the review would be written and I would be in bed. I started skipping through it, and then found myself backtracking to find out what had led up to some belly laugh. I suppose I wound up by reading a good part of the book twice. Averill has written the real thing—the thing that all publishers think they have when they tout an outdoors book. It has gorgeous humor, sound solid common-sense about shooting, fishing, hunting, conservation, and outdoor life presented in entertaining and perceptive language. It is a book that has only one fault. It was written by Averill instead of by me. I'd give all the game I've ever bagged and all the fish I've ever caught if I could write like him. The book is a major classic in outdoor literature, and will stand as a minor classic in straight literature.

Averill just tells the story of his life as a Maine woodsman, as a clerk in lumber camps and as a game warden. He tells it without pretentions, and though he makes full use of the rugged Maine vernacular some of his descriptions come close to poetry. Don't be misled by the word 'poetry.' The book contains many characters who spit brown and have hair on their chest—that is, all except Esau Kant, the Hairless Man, who should be better known than Paul Bunyan or John Henry.

You don't know anything about the Ameri-

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ORIGINAL
REGISTERED
CHIPPEWAS

OVERSTOCKED!
Original CHIPPEWA
Waterproofed Leather Hi-Cuts

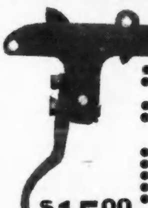
Finest
QUALITY LEATHER

offered below present factory prices. This advertisement will not appear again.

10" Bird Shoe $10.00 (Reg. Price $16.00)
16" Bird Shoe $14.00 (Reg. Price $22.50)
Sizes 7E to 12E

Orders filled as received

Flaig's MILLVALE, PENNA.



ENFIELD OWNERS
Here is the
SPEEDLOCK TRIGGER
you have been looking for

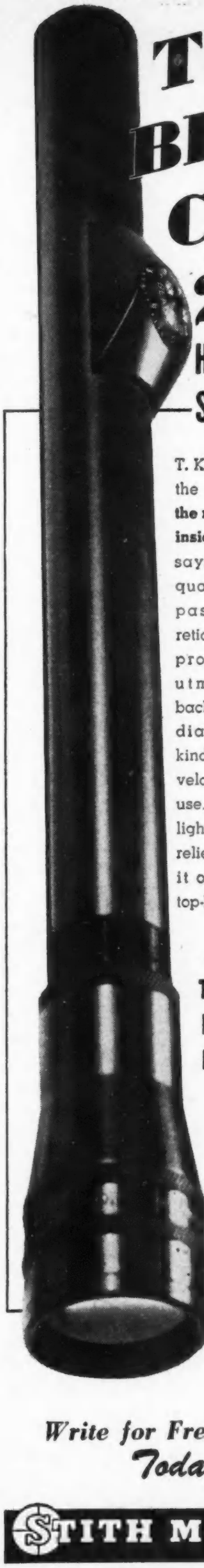
- Cocks on opening.
- No welding of bolt or cocking piece.
- Short striker travel.
- Powerful main spring included. Full sear engagement for safety.
- Pull adjustable 3 to 6 lbs.
- No back slap or creep.
- Short crisp pull.
- Easily installed yourself.
- Specify whether standard or shortened magazine.
- Positive Safety operation.

$15.00 p.p.
Pat. App. For
SPEEDLOCKS FOR
SPRINGFIELD & MAUSER 98
NO WELDING $15.00
Single Stage Triggers for
All Three $12.50

DAYTON-TRAISTER CO.
34 SE 66th Ave. Portland 16, Ore.
Dealers and gunsmiths write for discounts.

HI-STANDARD
MODEL H D MILITARY
.22 AUTOMATIC

HI-STANDARD
Now manufacturing Model H-DM
Automatic Pistol for .22 caliber R.F.,
and Model G-380 for .380 caliber C. F.
Please place your order with your dealer now
.22 AUTOMATIC
HIGH STANDARD MFG. CORP., 1811 Dixwell Av., New Haven, Conn.



The BEAR CUB 2½X
HUNTING SCOPE

T. K. Lee, originator of the famous Lee Dot, **the man who has been inside the Bear Cub** says ..."The optical qualities are unsurpassed. The husky reticule parts are rustproof, fitted with utmost precision; back-lash in elevation dial or play of any kind, could hardly develop in a lifetime of use. The Bear Cub is light weight, long eye relief, and I consider it one of America's top-line scopes."

●

THE HUSKY
HANDSOME
BEAR CUB

Price
$55.

Write for Free Folder
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STITH MOUNTS

Department 37
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Arms Across America

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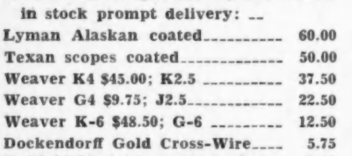
RAMP SIGHT

(PAT. APPLIED FOR)

Actual length gold or ivory 1-16-3-32" $7.00. Special price in lots.

NEW F-N actions with 30-06, 257, 270 Chrome Moly 24" sporter barrel fitted, white not blued	$70.00
New F-N actions with 22" *featherweight* chrome moly barrel fitted .30-06 cal. only, white	66.00
F-N actions with 220 Swift barrel sporter or med. heavy, box shortened, white	75.00
All parts for F-N actions in stock.	
Rem 37 AR 22 cal new	113.60
720 Sav autos 12 ga, new	92.75
37 Ithaca's 16-12 ga, new	83.50
31 Rem 12 ga only, new	83.50
75 Win Target 22 cal, new	54.50
45 Colt auto Com. 38 Colt Super	65.00
38 S&W M&P 2.4.5.6"	56.50
22 cal HD Hi-Standard 4½, 6¾"	51.00
Colt .38 O.M. Target	75.00
UNERTL & FECKER SCOPES	
All sizes and magnification, LIST PRICE in stock prompt delivery:	
Lyman Alaskan coated	60.00
Texan scopes coated	50.00
Weaver K4 $45.00; K2.5	37.50
Weaver G4 $9.75; J2.5	22.50
Weaver K-6 $48.50; G-6	12.50
Dockendorff Gold Cross-Wire	5.75
Redfield 70 sights most numbers	8.50
Redfield 102 sights most numbers	5.75
Redfield hooded ramp sights	8.50
Redfield mts. $10.75 to	14.75
Redfield Olympic rear sights R-37	15.75
Echo mts. $17.50; Pachmayr mts.	20.00
Lyman ramp sights, all sizes	6.25
Lyman 48 sights, most numbers available $12.50-	14.00
Lyman 17A $3; Lyman 56 sights	8.00
Lyman Tru-Line Jr. Loading tools	22.00
Ideal Powder Measure No. 55	10.00
Sheep Skin holsters 4-5-6" flap	1.50
Flaig-Ace Holster, half moon type, zipper closing. Inside finest sheepskin, outside soft live leather. Will hold any make pistol, prepaid	4.50
Sheep Skin Cases Hi-Grade	11.00
Sheep Skin Cases scope size	12.00
Polychokes fitted	14.75
Super Poly	18.75
Send barrel only	



Shot-Gun Cases Solid Cowhide, finest grade made 26-32"	18.00
Spr. front sights complete	1.00
Spr. trigger guards milled new	3.00
Spr. triggers $1.00; Extractors	1.00
Mauser F-N actions new bolt altered low scope	45.00
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Mauser 98 issue actions $25.00 to	30.00
Mauser 98 firing pins new	3.00
Mauser 98 stripped bolts v.g.	5.00
Mauser 98 complete bolts v.g.	14.00
Mauser 98 rec. stripped v.g.	10.00
Mauser 98 issue stocks	3.00
Mauser 98 extractors new	3.00
Mauser 24" issue barrels v.g.	5.00
Krag 24" barrels new	15.00
Enfield trigger guard stripped	1.50
Enfield extractors new	1.50
Colt 45 mags used $1.00; new	1.50
Colt Slides new	7.50
S&W barrels 17 M. new	6.00
S&W cylinders new	2.50
Hagen De Luxe Chisel Sets, postpaid	12.50
Ray-Ban Shooting Glasses	15.00
B&L Kalichrome Sh. Glasses	16.50
B&L Skeet Glasses	12.50
B&L Sun Glasses	10.75
Hookovers, Bausch & Lomb	4.75
Mitchell Shooting Glasses gold	11.50
Mitchell Shooting Glasses white	7.50
33 Win. ammo, box 200 gr.	3.25
Colt 45 ammo late per 100	4.00
32 R.F. $2.00 100; 32 R.F Long 100	2.20
38-55 S.P. ammo Box $2.40; 100	12.00
32.40 S.P. ammo. Box $2.20; 100	11.00
25-20 S.P. $2.70 box; 38-40 S.P. $3.80 box	
12 ga. 00 Buck $1.10 box; Case	20.00
Many other loads available NOW.	
New Govt. Slings 1¼ Leather	1.50
Dozen lots	14.00
1¼" Issue Swivels with base, new, dozen	2.00
Burl fore-arm pieces Black Walnut, 2-2½" 10-12"	1.50

***PENNA. BLACK WALNUT STOCKS,**
inletted, Full P.G. cheek-pc. hi-comb

Rem 30-721 Mauser 22 cal S.S. or 5 shot Mauser 98. Spr. Enf. Krag. 70-54-52 Win * and others. Left or right hand: $6 up.

* IMMEDIATE DELIVERY.
Spr. Mauser. Enfield. Krag 45 C.A. 17 S&W parts. NEW LIST FREE.

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MILLVALE
PENNSYLVANIA
"Serving Only Sportsmen"

Trades accepted
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can outdoors until you read this book. As I said, this is the *real* thing.—R. G. McCloskey.

(Published by J. P. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 217 pages. Price $2.75. Available through NRA Book Service.)

SMALL GAME AND VARMINT RIFLES

By Henry M. Stebbins

In thumbing through *Small Game and Varmint Rifles* as one might when casually inspecting a book in the book store, I was immediately impressed with its splendid organization. When I started to read the book I found it enjoyable as well as informative.

Without wandering before getting into his subject, the author starts his discussion of the various small game and varmint cartridges on page two. Each low-powered and small caliber cartridge, from the little .22 BB to the .30-30, is covered under a separate subheading, the author bringing in some of the background of the development of each cartridge and evaluating its effectiveness on game. The chapters which give helpful hints on the selection of a small-game rifle are equally impressive.

When the reader finishes the first half of the book, on ammunition and guns, he will undoubtedly have some ideas on what rifle will meet his particular desires and needs. Having settled his mind on that score, he will find several stimulating, interesting chapters in the last half of the book. Some of these are: "Notes on Handloading," "Care of Equipment," "Tinkering," "On the Range," "Still Hunting," and "G. I. Importations."

This book is of prime interest to the experienced or novice shooter who wants to get more enjoyment out of his small game hunting.—E. B.

(Published by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York, 234 pages. Price $3.75. Available through the NRA Book Service.)

A GLOSSARY OF THE CONSTRUCTION, DECORATION, AND USE OF ARMS AND ARMOR

By G. C. Stone

Originally published in 1934, George Stone's mammoth glossary quickly assumed an important spot in the library of every serious arms collector. Though by no means a "collector's guide," the big volume provided the answers to countless questions which could be found nowhere else. Stone himself was an avid collector of Far Eastern arms and armor (many of his pieces are now in New York's Metropolitan Museum), and the book is particularly rich in material on Orientalia. Actually, 'encyclopedia' might have been a better word than 'glossary' in titling the book. Crammed with illustrations and alphabetically-arranged text entries, it is a rich treasure of information on the lesser-known objects which find their way into the cabinets of the arms collector. And to its credit, no book of the many published during the last decade duplicates in any way the information Stone gathered for his Glossary.

Long a collector's item itself, the book is once again available through the good offices of Ray Riling, who secured a quantity of the original sheets, until now unbound, and is reissuing the book in a binding almost identical with that of the original copies.—J. S.

(Available from Arms Collector Service, 8644 Gorsten St., Phila. 19, Pa., 694 pages; 875 illus., $20.)

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Rate: 25 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. All advertisements must be accompanied by remittance, made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C.

2. Closing Date: All advertisements must be received by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: the 1st of July for the August issue. Ads *received* after the 1st of July *and not later than the 1st of August* will be inserted in the September issue.)

3. Who May Advertise: Any individual or firm whose advertisements and methods of doing business meet our requirements may advertise their goods or services in the ARMS CHEST.

4. All Orders Subject to These Conditions: We reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

5. Transactions Based on Good Faith: ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in disbarment from the NRA, in the case of members.

6. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Blind ads, with box numbers *only*, will not be accepted. Give your COMPLETE name and address, to insure prompt delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

7. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters likewise are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith; H. B., meaning heavy barrel; HP., meaning high-power). Hyphenated words are counted as two words (example: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

8. Responsibility for Illegible Copy: Type or print ads plainly, for we can not be responsible for errors due to illegible writing.

9. Firearms for Sale or Trade Must Be Properly Described: The *condition* of every gun (including essential parts) advertised for sale or trade, *must* be specified according to *NRA standards,* as follows: PERFECT—meaning factory condition; EXCELLENT—meaning new condition, implying negligible amount of use; VERY GOOD—meaning practically new condition; implying little use, with no appreciable bore wear and only minor surface scratches or wear; GOOD—meaning moderate use with some finish worn off, only moderate bore wear, with no pits and nothing worse than a little roughness in the bore; FAIR—meaning no parts missing necessary to use of gun, reasonable wear inside and out, nothing worse than minor pits in steel or stock, gun sufficiently accurate for hunting. POOR—meaning marred appearance and pitted or badly worn bore.

When price lists or descriptive catalogs are offered the *condition* of every weapon so listed must be properly described in accordance with these requirements.

10. Requesting Privilege of Examinations: We suggest that purchasers desirous of examining merchandise before acceptance request shipment by express C. O. D., with examination privilege. This procedure permits the purchaser to inspect the merchandise *in local express office* and authorizes the express company to return unsatisfactory merchandise at shipper's expense.

11. "Outlawed" Firearms Cannot Be Sold: Federal statutes forbid the sale or trade of all machine or submachine guns; sawed-off rifles and shotguns with barrels of less than 18" (the exact barrel length must be specified for all Mannlicher-Schoenauers) and Mauser and Luger auto pistols *with holster stocks*—except by a Federally licensed dealer who has paid the special tax required by Section 3260, Internal Revenue Code.

In addition, the NRA has adopted a policy of not accepting advertisements covering small semi-automatic pocket pistols which have no practical value as target, police or military weapons.

FOR SALE

SHOOTERS—ON THE RANGE, KEEP YOUR targets neat and tidy; patch the holes with Kurve-Kut target pasters; packed 500 pasters to the roll in handy dispenser-type cardboard box-Black, White or Buff; 30 cents per box at your dealers or send your order to Razorback Target Pasters, Route #2, Fayetteville, Arkansas. tf.

PARKER AHE, 30 F&F, S.T., MILLER, VENtilated rib, Beavertail fore-end; about 1-7/16 x 1⅝ x 14¼. Excellent or better, with Circassian beautiful stock, pad and gold pistol grip cap, $850.00. Frank Pugliese, 2829 So. Broad St., Trenton 10, New Jersey. tf.

AUTOMATIC PISTOL MAGAZINES—ALL kinds—P38-Mauser-Luger-Walther etc. 10¢ for complete list. Want to buy incomplete, broken, rusted automatic pistols for parts. Will buy clips & magazines in any quantity. Sidney Aberman, 5650 Marlborough Road, Pittsburgh 17, Penna. 8-48.

BACK DATED MAGAZINES — FOREIGN, domestic, art. Any dates. Books, booklets, pin-ups. Catalogs 10¢. Cicerone's Mart, 863 First Avenue, New York 17. tf.

RELOADING LUBRICANTS: IPCO COLloidal graphite ribbon wads $1.00 box; IPCO bullet lubricant $1.00 box. Special discount to dealers. Industrial Products Co., W.W. Perkins, Prop. Box 14, Wakefield, Mass. tf.

USE THE NEW GAS PROOF GUN WADS for best results, no leading, $4.00. 500-½", 250-⅛C, 250 thin C, Walnut Gun Blanks. E. G. Snyder, Rt. #2, Reading, Penna. tf.

.45-70-500 SMOKELESS CARTRIDGES. $1.74 per box, $8.00 per 100. .45-70 blanks, $5.00 per 100. 30-06 (M2), $6.25 per 100. .45 auto pistol (M1911), $5.00 per 100. .45-70 Headless shell extractors, 75¢. .45-70 Lee Navy magazines, $1.25. Mauser M1888 clips, two for $1.00. .38 Service revolver holsters for 4" barrel, $1.90. 1¼" Military rifle slings, $1.75. Used slings, very good, two for $1.00. .45 G.I. auto. pistol holsters, used, very good. 75¢. G. I. Rubber slipon recoil pads, 90¢. New Trainer (dummy) rifles, $3.90. .45-70 Springfield rifles, carbines, parts and accessories on hand. Send for list. Dept. R, Bolin's Gun Shop, 9 Grand St., South Amboy, N. J. tf.

PRIMERS, WESTERN #3, IMPROVED, NONcorrosive, $2.25 per M. Case of 5000 for $9.50. Demrick Sales Co., 1424 Grant Ave, San Francisco 11, Calif. tf.

SPECIAL GUNSMITH SCREW DRIVERS, set of 9 spring-steel drivers ⅛" x 2" to 5/16" x 10" blades. Guaranteed not to chip, gun grip handles. Shipped to any member on approval, $4.50 postpaid. E. C. Grace, Elk Rapids, Michigan. tf.

LARGE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN AND European antique arms. Send 25 cents in coin for our 15th edition catalog featuring the Brown collection of Kentucky rifles. We buy whole collections or single pieces. Fair prices paid. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf.

INVENTORS: HUNDREDS OF MANUFACturers have requested our assistance in locating marketable new products. Complete information, free. Institute of American Inventors, Dept. 131 1926 Eye St. N.W., Washington 6, D. C. tf.

NEW CATALOG, WITH SUPPLEMENTS, listing hundreds of antique arms, edged weapons, cartridges, accessories, books, and collectors items, is 25¢. H. A. Brand, 105G East Third St., Cincinnati 2, Ohio 8-48.

375 H&H MAG. MAUSER, RIBBED BARREL, extra 300 H&H barrel, rubber pad. Excellent $250.00. 404 Gibbs Mag. Mauser, ¼ rib, rubber pad. Have plenty of ammo. excellent $200.00. Rigby double barrel 12. ga. shotgun, two sets of barrels, 3" chamber, case. Excellent $750.00. Rigby black powder rifle with shot barrels. Poor condition $50.00. Want Steyr straight pull any caliber. Also top grade three barrels. Colonel R. L. Harrison, Box 1320, Albuquerque, N. M. 7-48.

WALNUT SPORTER RIFLE STOCKS SEMI-inletted. $7.00 up. Blanks $2.50 up. Shotgun stocks $5.00 up. Blanks $1.00 up also completely fitted stocks Discount to dealers and gunsmiths. J. J. Szczepanik, Englishtown, N. J. tf.

REVOLVERS, MINERALS, STAMPS, COINS, glass, Indian relics, catalog 5¢. Cowboy Lemley, Las Cruces, New Mexico. tf.

CASWELL TARGET CARRIERS GIVE THE shooter every possible point because they hold the target steady and require no exertion to operate. Fully equipped with speedy ball-bearing pulley wheels and target holders for every type of indoor paper rifle or pistol targets. Priced from $22.80 to $31.20, write for price list and descriptive circulars. Caswell Target Carriers, Anoka, Minnesota. tf.

NEW PRIMED 10 GA. 2-9/16" CASES 1¢ each in lots of 2000 or more. Bogert's Gun Store, Sandusky, Ohio. 7-48.

WINCHESTER MODEL 64, CALIBER 219 Zipper rifle, new, $87.35. Cartridges, caliber 219 Zipper, $12.50 per 100. Savage, Model 219, hammerless, single shot, 30-30 caliber rifle $28.80. Stevens .22 cal. single shot target rifle, model 416-2, brand new, $53.20. Remington, bolt action, target rifles, model 513TR, :22 cal. brand new, $53.50. H&R Reising, .22 cal. model 65 auto loading rifle, brand new, $45.00. Colt .45 cal. model 1917 revolver cylinders, brand new, $3.50 each. Heavy rifle covers canvas Red Head, leather trimmed, $3.00 each. Heavy shotgun covers, canvas Red Head, takedown, leather trimmed $3.00 each. Genuine leatherette takedown shotgun covers, leather trimmed, $3.00 each. Genuine chamois Red Head rifle covers, wool lined, leather trimmed, fine quality, $8.00 each. Forward money order. No C.O.D. shipments. Send 25¢ for catalog of new and used guns, ammunition, binoculars and powder flasks. Public Sport Shops, Dept R-75. 11 So. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

PURE HONEY 5# pail $1.75 postpaid within 1000 miles. Fine flavored Northern Michigan white clover-wild raspberry blend. Really good. Satisfaction or your money back. R. H. Kelty, & Sons, Rt. #2, Box 202, Lansing, Michigan. tf.

SHOOT WITH A MUZZLE CAP ON YOUR rifle, shotgun, pistol and play safe. Positively keeps bore of firearm free of dirt, moisture, snow, dangerous obstructions under all firing conditions, range or afield. Simple to use. No effect accuracy, breech pressure. Made of Neoprene. This sensational gadget, endorsed everywhere, makes ideal scope cover also. Shooters! Get your seasons supply by return mail, 35¢ dozen, or 3 dozen for $1.00 postpaid. State whether for rifle, pistols, shotgun, scope. Woodford Mfg. Co., Lyndhurst, Ohio. tf.

AMMUNITION. 75 SIZES IN STOCK. DIME for list. Central Sports, Delphos 2, Ohio. 8-48.

What about Your Hunting Equipment?

If you are planning the purchase of any new guns, scopes or other equipment for the fall hunting season, we suggest you make an early selection—for many such items are still in short supply.

Please also bear in mind that your gunsmith is now in a much better position to give you prompt service on gun and scope repairs or rebluing, than he will be later on in the season.

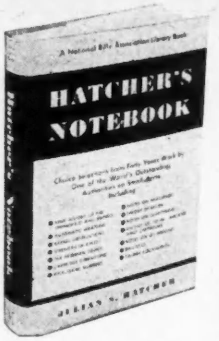
And if you have any extra deer rifles, duck guns or other excess hunting supplies, we strongly urge you make them available to other members, through an ad in the September "Arms Chest"!

☆ ☆ ☆

Your "copy" instructions for the September issue must reach us positively not later than August 1st.

NRA Book Service
1600 Rhode Island Ave. N. W. • Washington 6, D. C.

IT'S THE TOPS

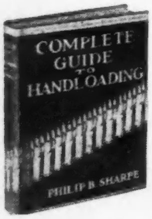


The technical editor of *The American Rifleman* sums up the results of his years of experience in small arms design and performance......... **$5.00**

THE RIFLE IN AMERICA

By Phil Sharpe

A new revised enlarged edition of a classic book that gives material on every U. S. Rifle up to 1947.... **$15.00**



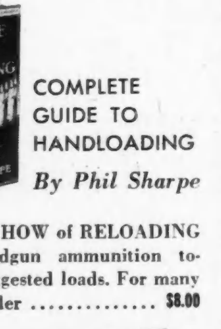
COMPLETE GUIDE TO HANDLOADING

By Phil Sharpe

The WHY and HOW of RELOADING rifle and handgun ammunition together with suggested loads. For many years a best seller **$8.00**

THE MODERN GUNSMITH

By James V. Howe



A "must" for every gunsmith, furnishing extensive aid to anyone whose occupation or hobby is gunsmithing. (2 vols.) **$15.00**

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
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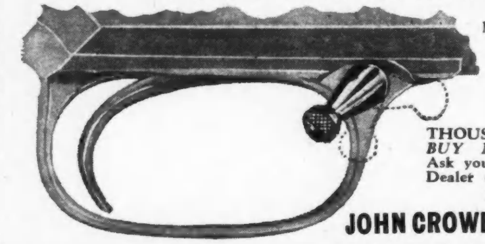

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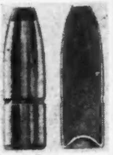

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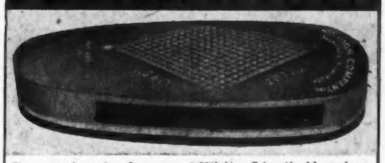

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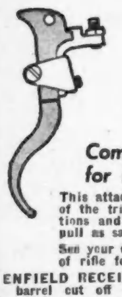

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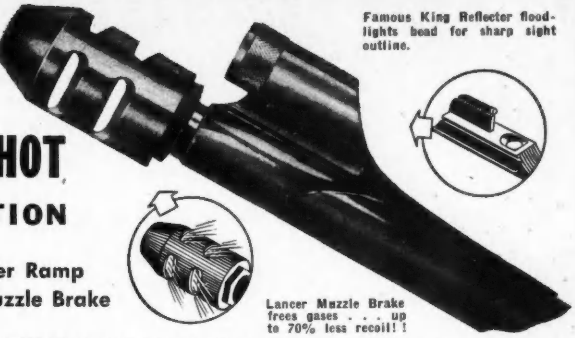

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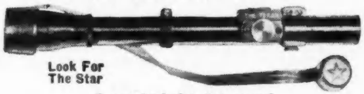

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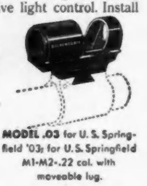

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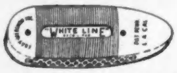

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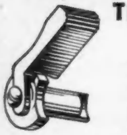

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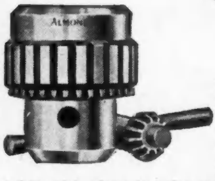

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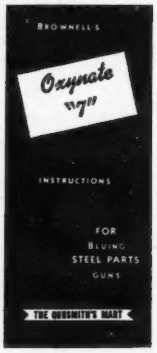

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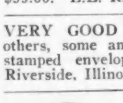

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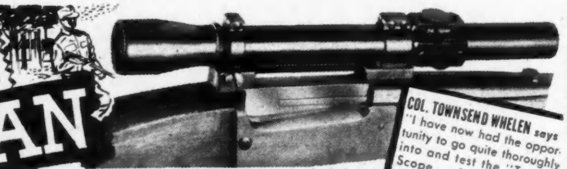

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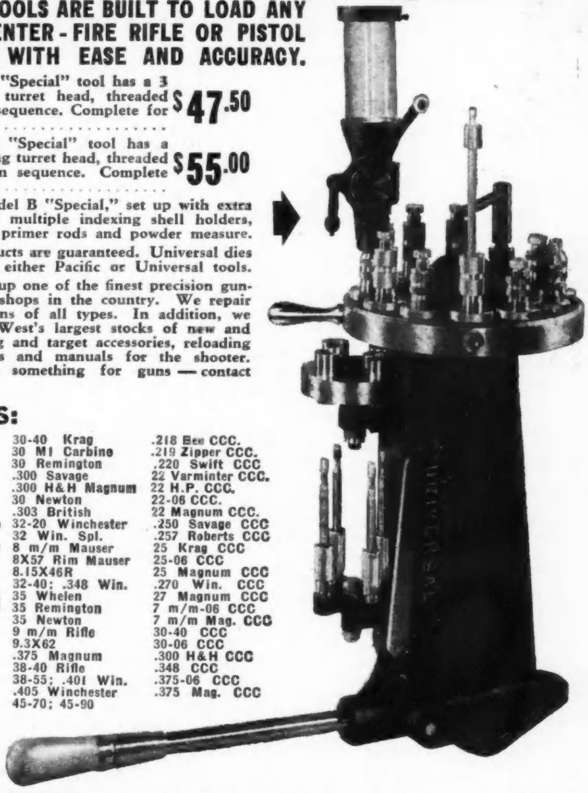

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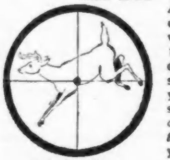

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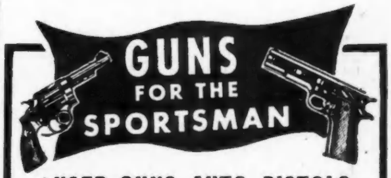

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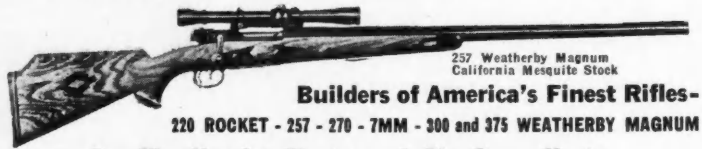

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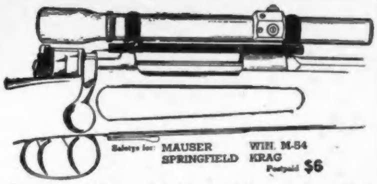

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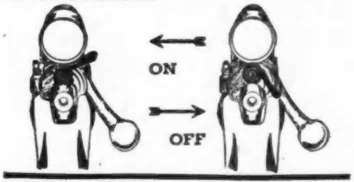

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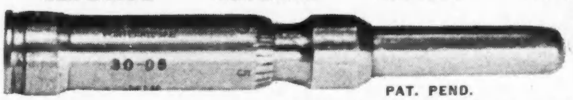

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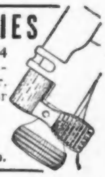

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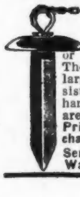

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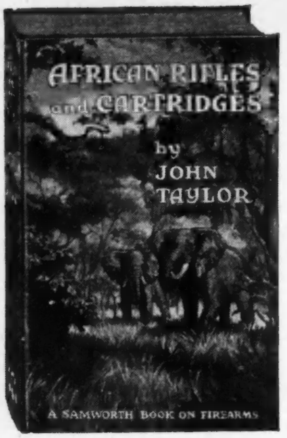

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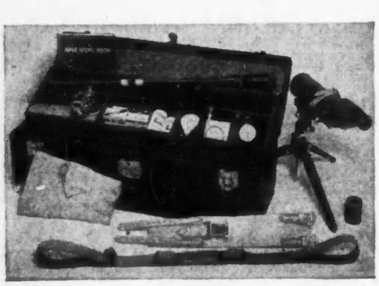

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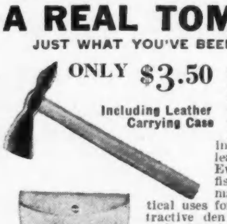

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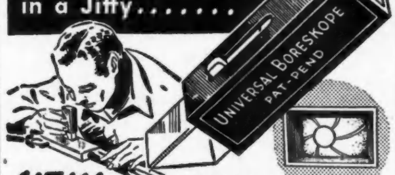

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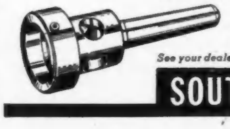

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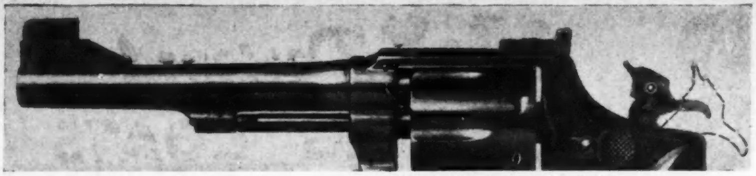

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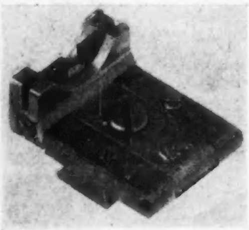

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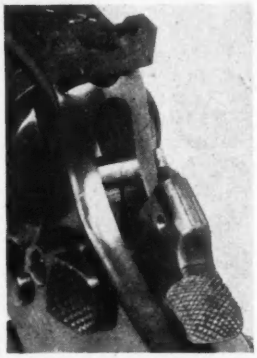

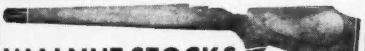

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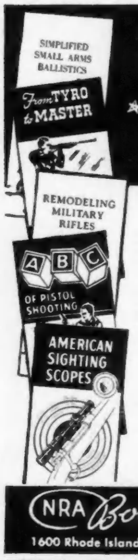

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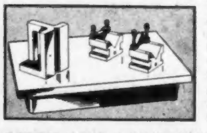

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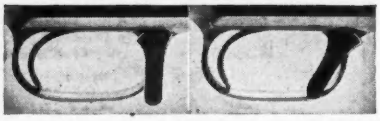

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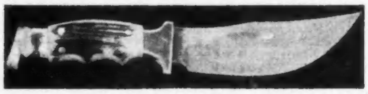

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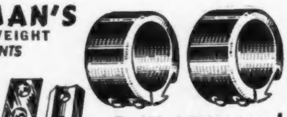

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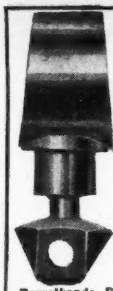

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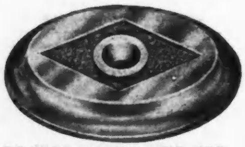

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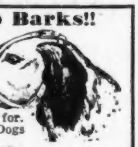

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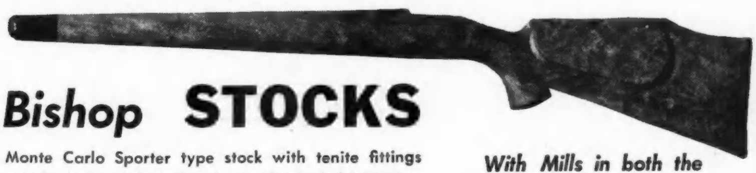

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as described in the May Dope Bag, Page 60. Light but rugged and sturdy. NO DRILLING OR TAPPING REQUIRED. Illustrated instructions furnished on request.

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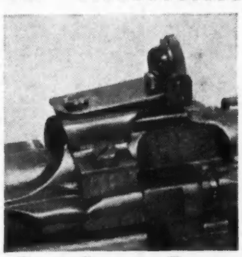

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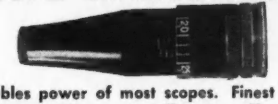

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See Page 76 H. TOM COLLORD

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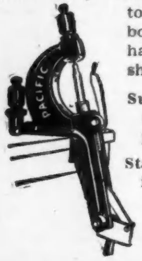

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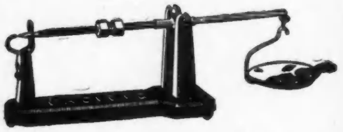

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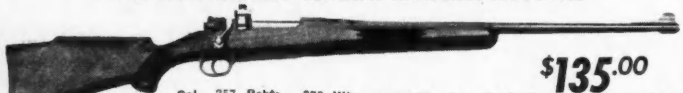

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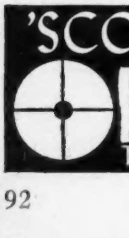

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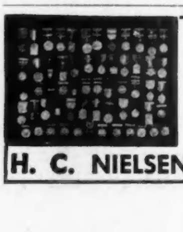

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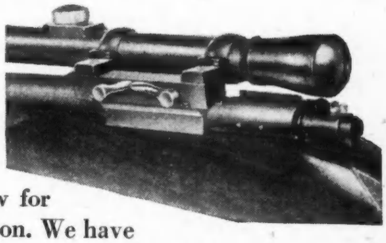

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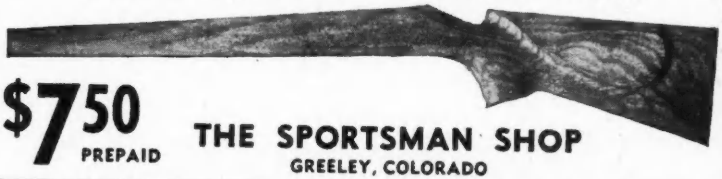

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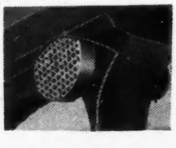

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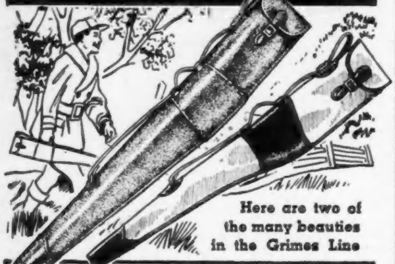

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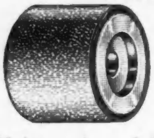

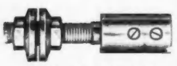

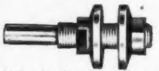

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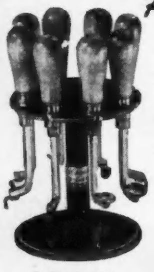

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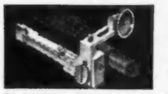

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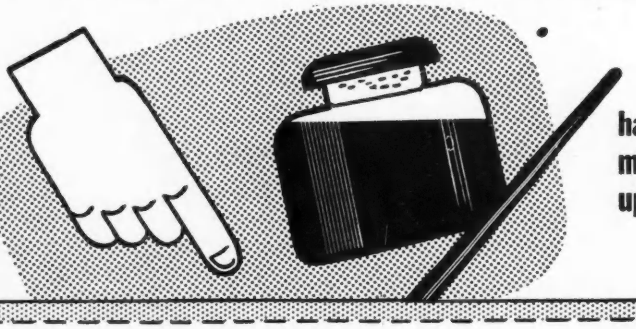

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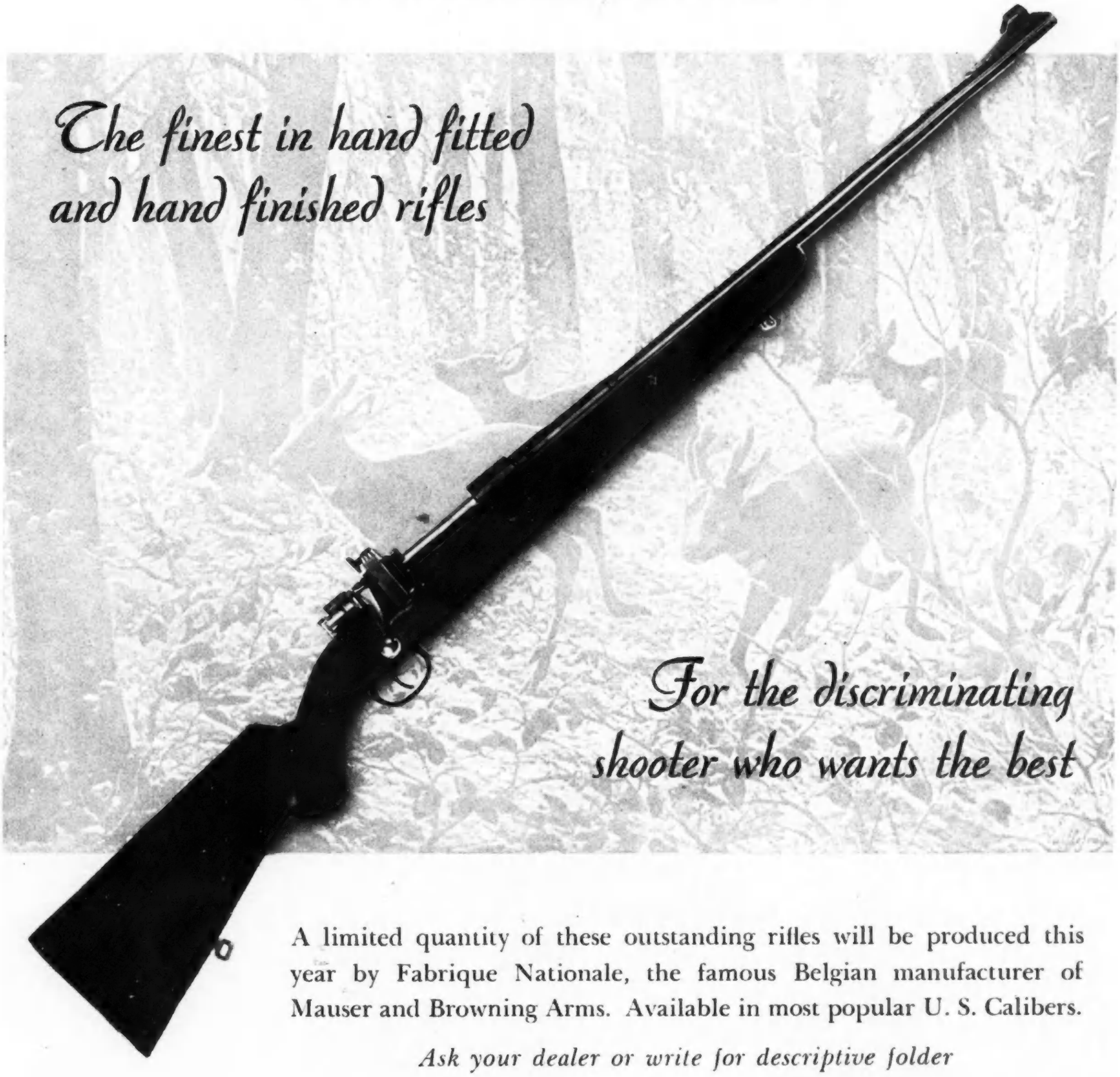
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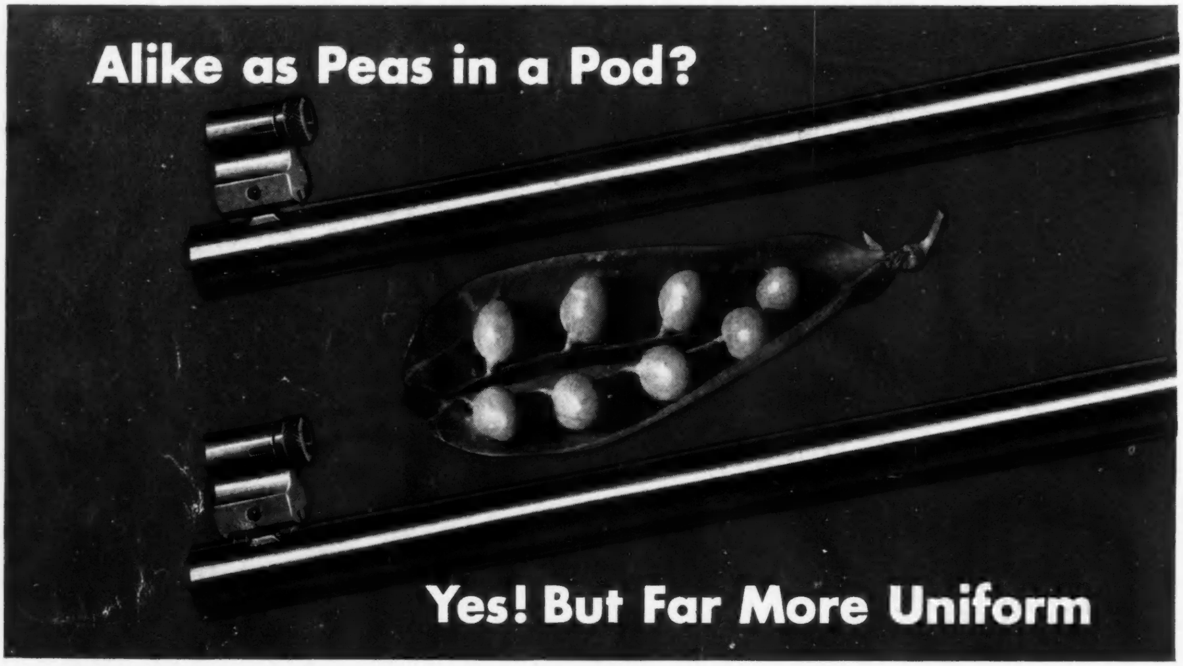

In manufacturing, Model 52 barrels cannot vary more than one 5/10,000th of an inch. That's about 1/6th the diameter of the finest human hair. Actually the bore, when completed, is held to a minimum tolerance of around 3/10,000th of an inch.

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If you'd like a new folder showing sectional and diagrammatic features of the Model 52, please address Desk 103-D Winchester Repeating Arms Co., New Haven, Conn., Division of Olin Industries, Inc.

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